

Group Fo
Class 406
Piece 22

22
406

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. December 1905.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(8548.)

F.O.

406

N
014

FO 406

22

PART III.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

AFFAIRS OF

RESPECTING THE

		ash Ambassador. Sheikh's ow submissive to His Majesty's at	30
		rabs in Persia. Transmits Part II, 40, describing relations of Turkey with eit	31
		eit Arabs in Persia. Refers to Part II, No. 140. Approves language	31
		Yemen. Dislocation of army caused by rebel- lion. 50,000 men sent to Yemen. Porte hopes no British ships will be sent to Hodeidah	31
		Yemen. Progress of the revolt. Despatch from Hodeidah. Sanaa to be made a strong military centre	34
	9,	Yemen. Progress of reinforcements. Des- patch from Colonel Maunsel respecting ..	35
	10,	Muscat Arbitration. Refers to No. 15. Dr. Lammasch's appointment notified officially ..	35
	13,	Muscat. Sultan's refusal to receive list of dhow-owners from French Vice-Consul. Refers to No. 22. Despatch from Major Grey explaining reasons for	36
	15,	Muscat Arbitration. Refers to No. 26. Concurs in acceding to French Govern- ment's suggestion	37
Cambon	15,	Muscat Arbitration. Informs of above, and of appointment of Dr. Lammasch	37

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	Sir N. O'Connor ..	269	Apr. 22, 1905	Yemen and Hedjaz Vilayet. Course of the Arab revolt. Events since September 1904. Reports from Jeddah and Hodeidah. Economic and Administrative state of the Hedjaz	1
2	" ..	279	25,	Maan - Akaba route. Lieutenant - Colonel Maunsell's notes on. Transmits	10
3	" ..	280	26,	Yemen. Reluctance of recruits to serve. Precarious position at Sanaa. Report from Colonel Maunsell	11
4	" ..	283	26,	Yemen. Turkish position very critical	13
5	To Sir N. O'Connor ..	141	May 1,	Aden. Refers to Part II, No. 110*. Approves action	13
6	Sir H. Howard ..	68	1,	Muscat. Refers to Part II, No. 147. Transmits French Counter-Case	14
7	" ..	69	1,	Muscat. Refers to Part II, No. 148. Correspondence respecting omission of Sultan's name handed in to International Bureau	14
8	India Office ..	..	3,	Visit of French Vice-Consul at Muscat to Sur. Telegrams to and from India respecting action of His Majesty's Consul in intervening between French Vice-Consul and Sultan. Refers to Part II, No. 30*	14
9	To Sir N. O'Connor ..	153	3,	Great Britain and Turkey. Conversation with Musurus Pasha respecting obstructive attitude of Turks, and alleged English proceedings on Persian Gulf	15
			3,	Bahrain. Recent disturbances. Account of. Transmits despatch from Major Cox	16
			4,	Koweit Arabs in Persia. Transmits Part II, No. 140. Proposes to approve Sir A. Hardinge's action	22*
				Muscat. Arbitrators should be left to fix date for handing in conclusions	22
				Muscat. Transmits correspondence respecting. English and French to be used concurrently. To make joint communication to Tribunal	22
				Reshid. Letters received from. His agents	23
				.. .. and Montifik. Disturbances	23
				.. .. King of Italy selects Refers to Part II,	24
				.. .. British officials. Points out Ambassador's	24
				.. .. between	25
				.. .. II,	26

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

iii

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
19	Sir N. O'Connor ..	300	May 2, 1905	Aden boundary negotiations. Telegrams to Mr. Fitzmaurice Nos. 17 and 18. Congratulations on conclusion of	26
20	" ..	305	3,	Yemen. Dispatch of further reinforcements. Menakha still besieged. Despatch from Military Attaché	27
21	Consul-General Gurney ..	4	5,	Transports chartered by Turkey to convey troops to Hodeidah. Names of	27
22	To Sir F. Bertie ..	276	8,	Muscat Arbitration. Major Cox's attitude. French Government complain respecting	28
23	India Office ..	..	8,	Bahrain. Refers to No. 10. Transmits letter to Admiralty. Appreciation of services of Captain Eustace	28
24	" ..	..	10,	Koweit Arabs in Persia. Refers to No. 10*. Concurs in approval	29
25	Sir H. Howard ..	81	11,	Muscat. Correction in British Counter-Case handed in to International Bureau	29
26	To India Office ..	..	12,	Muscat Arbitration. Transmits Nos. 11 and 15. Proposes to accede to French Government's suggestion to postpone delivery of arguments	29
27	Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor ..	17 Confidential	Apr. 22,	Sheikh of Koweit. His reply to Vali's letter of 14th February. Acknowledges himself the obedient servant of Ottoman Government. Telegram from Abdur Rahman-el-Feysul to Constantinople respecting Ibn Reshid's presumption	30
28	India Office ..	..	May 11,	Bahrain. Refers to No. 16. Concurs in reply to Turkish Ambassador. Sheikh's attitude is now submissive to His Majesty's Government	30
29	To Sir N. O'Connor ..	159	12,	Koweit Arabs in Persia. Transmits Part II, No. 140, describing relations of Turkey with Koweit	31
30	To Sir A. Hardinge ..	78	13,	Koweit Arabs in Persia. Refers to Part II, No. 140. Approves language	31
31	Sir N. O'Connor ..	312	9,	Yemen. Dislocation of army caused by rebellion. 50,000 men sent to Yemen. Porte hopes no British ships will be sent to Hodeidah	31
32	" ..	317	9,	Yemen. Progress of the revolt. Despatch from Hodeidah. Sanaa to be made a strong military centre	34
33	" ..	318	9,	Yemen. Progress of reinforcements. Despatch from Colonel Maunsell respecting	35
34	Sir E. Egerton ..	77	10,	Muscat Arbitration. Refers to No. 15. Dr. Lammasch's appointment notified officially	35
35	India Office ..	..	13,	Muscat. Sultan's refusal to receive list of dhow-owners from French Vice-Consul. Refers to No. 22. Despatch from Major Grey explaining reasons for	36
36	" ..	..	15,	Muscat Arbitration. Refers to No. 26. Concurs in acceding to French Government's suggestion	37
37	To M. Cambon ..	..	15,	Muscat Arbitration. Informs of above, and of appointment of Dr. Lammasch	37

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
38	To India Office ..	..	May 15, 1905	Muscat. Major Cox's attitude. Transmits No. 22 for observations ..	38
39	Sir N. O'Connor ..	323	11,	Exiles from the Yemen. Return of, to Rhodes. Despatch from Smyrna ..	38
40	" ..	326	12,	Entry of Turkish troops into Boreyda and Aneyza. Telegrams from Bussorah announcing ..	39
41	Sir H. Howard ..	86	15,	Muscat Arbitration. Use of English and French. Note to International Bureau respecting. Refers to No. 12 ..	39
42	India Office ..	..	17,	Sheikh of Bahrein. Refers to No. 28. Telegram to India. Has he declared himself a Turkish subject? ..	40
43	" ..	..	17,	Yemen. Telegram from Viceroy. Kalimakam of Kataba is proceeding to Aden. Compromise between Governor of Sanaa and the Imam ..	40
44	To Sir N. O'Connor ..	162	17,	Turkish complaints against His Majesty's Government. Refers to No. 9. Turkish Ambassador says no replies have been received to several ..	41
45	India Office ..	..	17,	French Vice-Consul at Muscat and his intended visit to Sur. Refers to No. 8. Further despatch from Major Grey defending his action in the matter ..	41
46	To Sir F. Bertie ..	321	19,	Muscat Supplementary Agreement. Signature of ..	42
47	To Musurus Pasha ..	..	20,	Bahrein. Refers to No. 28. Statements incorrect. Declines further representations on subject ..	42
48	Sir N. O'Connor ..	332	12,	Yemen. Tewfik Pasha's thanks for action of British authorities at Aden ..	42
49	" ..	339	15,	Yemen. Departure of officers to constitute a Court-martial ..	43
50	" ..	341	15,	Nejd Expedition. One regiment sent back to Nejed ..	43
51	" ..	343	16,	Yemen. Mobilization of the Kharput Redif Brigade ..	44
52	Mr. Johnstone ..	112	17,	Muscat Arbitration. Appointment of Dr. Lammasch. Conversation with Herr von Müller ..	45
53	To India Office ..	..	22,	Bubian Island. Transmits Part II, No. 141. Question must be kept separate from Koweit. Proposes to delay further representations until Major Knox has left Koweit ..	45
54	India Office ..	..	23,	Sheikh of Bahrein. Telegram from Viceroy. Discredits report that he has declared himself a Turkish subject. Refers to No. 42 ..	46
55	" ..	..	23,	Nejd. Sheikh Mubarak's views on recent interviews between Ibn Saood and the Vali of Bussorah. Despatch from Major Cox ..	46
56	" ..	..	24,	British flag at Musandim. Despatch to India respecting ..	50
57	Director of Military Operations ..	..	24,	Yemen rebellion. Memorandum respecting. Transmits ..	52

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
58	To Mr. Mounsey ..	50	May 25, 1905	Muscat Supplementary Agreement. Transmits copies for International Bureau ..	53
59	India Office ..	..	24,	Muscat. Major Cox's attitude. Refers to No. 38. Imputations of French Government unjustified ..	53
60	Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor ..	21 Confidential	6,	Entry of Turkish troops into Boreyda and Aneyza. Account of. Refers to No. 40 ..	54
61	Mr. Mounsey ..	98	26,	Muscat Supplementary Agreement. Refers to No. 58. Copies of communicated to Bureau ..	55
62	Sir N. O'Connor ..	353	19,	Yemen. Malatia Redif Brigade mobilized for service in ..	55
63	" ..	356	20,	Yemen. Capture of Sanaa by the Imam. Reports from Hodeidah respecting ..	56
64	India Office ..	..	23,	Yemen. Telegram from Yemen. Attack on Kataba improbable ..	58
65	Mr. Mounsey ..	102	29,	Muscat Arbitration. Note from M. de Ruysenaers respecting nomination of Umpire, &c. ..	58
66	India Office ..	..	30,	French Vice-Consul at Muscat. Trying to borrow Sultan's steamer for his visit to Sur. Refers to No. 8 ..	59
67	" ..	..	31,	Bubian Island. Refers to No. 53. Concurs in views ..	60
68	Sir A. Hardinge ..	107	17,	Bahrein. Misrepresentation in Calcutta paper of His Majesty's Government's action in. Denial published in Tehran press ..	60
69	Sir N. O'Connor ..	366	26,	Yemen. Return of the President of the Court-martial established in ..	62
70	" ..	369	27,	Troops for Yemen. Despatch of, from Albania ..	62
71	Mr. Mounsey ..	105	June 3,	Muscat Arbitration. Tribunal to meet 25th July, and arguments delivered on 10th July ..	63
72	India Office ..	..	7,	Aden delimitation. Mr. Fitzmaurice's report on Sabahi border and north-east frontier ..	63
73	" ..	..	6,	Bubian Island. Refers to No. 67. Telegram to India informing of His Majesty's Government's intention ..	71
74	Sir E. Egerton ..	95	5,	Muscat. Dr. Lammasch has formally accepted post of Umpire ..	72
75	India Office ..	..	8,	Trade in arms with Koweit. Report from Captain Knox. List of principal dealers in arms, &c. ..	72
76	Sir N. O'Connor ..	378	2,	Robberies in the Hedjaz district. Indemnity claims of Indian merchants. Satisfactory progress in settlement of ..	74
77	Mr. Mounsey ..	106	10,	Muscat Arbitration. M. Maurice Herbet appointed French Agent. M. Leronce to be Secretary ..	74
78	Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor ..	26 Secret and Confidential	May 19,	Nejd affairs. Riad and dependencies formed into a Caza ..	75

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
79	Sir N. O'Connor ..	396 A	June 10, 1905	Aden delimitation. Proposes exchange of notes with Porte, to place officially on record settlement arrived at	75
80	To Sir F. Bertie ..	77 Africa	20,	Arms traffic on French Somali Coast. Transmits note to Italian Ambassador respecting. Measures taken to put down	76
81	To Signor Pansa ..	..	20,	Arms traffic at Jibuti. Proposes further representations to French Government respecting	76
82	Consul Devey ..	1	10,	Insurrection in Assir. Capture of Kataba. Transmits Memorandum respecting	77
83	Sir N. O'Connor ..	415	14,	Yemen. Progress of events. Proposed plan of campaign. Despatch from Colonel Mansell respecting	78
84	To India Office ..	..	23,	Aden. Transmits No. 79, and proposes to approve Sir N. O'Connor's suggestion	79
85	Sir N. O'Connor ..	417	15,	Yemen. General condition of the province. Progress of the insurrection. Despatch from Hodeidah respecting	79
86	" ..	430	20,	Assir insurrection. Refers to No. 82. Alarming proportions assumed by	81
87	India Office ..	..	27,	Koweit post on Buhian Island. Telegram from Viceroy. Sheikh's stipulations	81
88	To Mr. Mounsey ..	60	30,	Muscat Arbitration. Appoints him Secretary to British Agent	82
89	To Mr. R. Graham ..	..	30,	Muscat Arbitration. Appoints him British Agent	82

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Arabia.

PART III.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 269.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 22, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches from His Majesty's Consular officers at Jeddah and Hodeida, giving valuable and interesting reports on the affairs of the Yemen from the beginning of September last, with special reference to the course of the Arab revolt in that vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 18.)

Sir,

Jeddah, February 12, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward reports on the Vilayets of Hedjaz and Yemen for the period of the 30th September, 1904, to the 31st January, 1905, and to remain, &c.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

P.S., 12th March, 1905.—I regret that the completion and transmission of this report has been delayed by various and frequent interruptions, but am now able to reopen the letter, so as to include the latest news respecting the revolt in Yemen—Vice-Consul Richardson's No. 26, of the 2nd instant, received to-day.

G. P. D.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Report on the Economic and Administrative State of the Hedjaz Vilayet, October 1904 to February 1905.

Political Troubles.—The concluding months of 1903 were showing a sadly disturbed state of affairs, both in Hedjaz and Assir, and the present outlook from Jeddah is again very unsatisfactory as regards Ottoman rule and supremacy in many parts of Arabia, while it was feared recently that the pilgrim season here would not pass without serious trouble.

Yemen Revolt.—To begin with Yemen, the Imam's revolt of last August grew progressively more serious and difficult to deal with, and at the close of the year, just

when the newly-designated Vali-Muavin of that vilayet was passing Jeddah on the voyage to his post, it was rumoured here that Sana'a had fallen to the assaults of 60,000 Arabs, and all Turkish officials and soldiers, as also foreigners, found in the city were massacred. This rumour has again just been repeated, but the Vice-Consul's report shows what really took place.

Assir.—The large force of regular troops assembled at Comfida a year ago apparently took no steps towards restoring their lately shipwrecked prestige; very few of them marched more than 30 miles from the coast, and now they are beginning to be withdrawn. Assir may be taken to be practically self-governing for the most part, with very little show of Ottoman authority.

Aden.—Recent developments as to the Aden frontier question would also seem to have attracted some attention and aroused suspicion in these parts, though, in view of the long time since the Commission began work, it would surely be time for the production of final results.

Nejd.—It is now three years since Abdul Aziz-ibn-Feysul (commonly called Bin Saoud) suddenly seized the town of Riad with a mere handful of Wahabi warriors, and, establishing his authority without excesses, began the warfare which is now attaining such noteworthy proportions. The reign of the blind and decrepit Feysul-ibn-Saoud having ended in 1865, just after Sir L. Pelly's visit to Riad, his martial son Abdullah, already Regent, acceded, but soon after his half-brother Saoud (reincarnating the story of Romulus and Remus) revolted and drove him out. Abdullah called the Turks to his assistance, who did little besides seizing Hasa for themselves in 1871; however, Saoud having died three years later, Abdullah resumed the government of Riad till 1886, when Mohammed-bin-Rashid, intervening on account of insurrection, descended from Hayil and seized the opportunity of extending his kingdom over all Central Arabia, ruling justly and strongly till his death eleven years later.

Abdul Aziz (bin Mitaab), of the "Ibn Rashid," succeeding at Hayil, has proved so far (as anticipated at once in 1898) to have little of the influence, character, and power of his stern father, Mohammed. By the latter, the insurrection at Riad in 1890, and, again, Zamil's more widespread rising of 1892, were speedily and completely crushed, but in 1900 Abdul Aziz showed but little determination to maintain his sway, and Feysul, having re-established his family rule in 1902, set out to attack his over-lord, Bin Rashid, with success. In January 1903 Bin Saoud won another important success, and fourteen months later seems to have consolidated his victories. Finally, last summer he overcame Turkish troops who were supporting Bin Rashid.

Rumours in the Hedjaz now indicate that the Sultan is sending a very considerable expedition to annihilate Bin Saoud, and will not hear of his submitting and holding the administration of his rightful province.

But in Hedjaz only mere dribblets of information are to be gleaned as to the real state of affairs in Nejd. Bin Rashid from the first appears to have chosen to have little to do with Mecca, and to communicate with the Turkish Government through Syria or Bagdad. This has naturally vexed Hedjaz authorities, and perhaps accounts in part for a certain lukewarmness on the part of Ahmed Ratib Pasha in forwarding support for his cause. Bin Saoud, on the other hand, submits to the Grand Shereef occasional appeals, which are said to meet with but scant favour.

Ahmed Feizi Pasha is believed now to be approaching Hayil, and a "Liva" Muhieddin Pasha, his son-in-law, has just arrived, who, after the Mecca pilgrimage, will proceed to Medina as Mufetish to oversee arrangements for any movement thence in support of Feizi's force.

As the Damascus-Mecca Railway advances, it is clearly most necessary for Turkey to find a strong and well-disposed State touching Hedjaz in Shammar and Kassim, but not equally so to convert this into a Turkish province. To leave the two disputants Bin Rashid and Saoud to go on alternately vanquishing one another as during the past century will be hardly tolerable, but to assign their boundaries after effecting a reconciliation and to protect efficaciously the Hedjaz side should be sufficient. The idea of reducing both countries at once, and establishing Turkish domination with Bin Rashid as their puppet, seems, however, to have commended itself to the Turks, but whether this will turn out well or not is a problem not easy to resolve.

Hedjaz.—During last pilgrim season very frequent robberies and outrages of every kind were taking place, but this year there is more quietude. As this state of turbulence had attracted attention and called forth strong remonstrance from various quarters, steps were taken to enforce some degree of order, but still Bedouin malpractices were continuing through the summer into the autumn, so that early in October the Grand Shereef prepared a large levy (some 3,000 to 4,000, mostly of the Oteiba tribe) to go to punish

the Harb tribes, in particular the Moabbad. If there is more quiet just now, I may say that this is solely due to a more liberal distribution of supplies and funds to the tribal Sheikhs and Chiefs this year. The Shereef's expedition, for want of supplies, and generally in absence of all discipline, returned to Mecca after a fortnight's outing without having accomplished anything, if silence should be kept as to their rumoured exploits of stopping or plundering innocent travellers on the way to Mecca. I may mention in this respect a trifling anecdote: The aged Omar Nassif Effendi of this town (ex-agent of the Grand Shereef) was shortly afterwards spending the month of Ramazan at Mecca, and, on his Highness inquiring one night what the Jeddah townsfolk had thought of this expedition, replied with his usual cautious but caustic humour that they had actually forgotten to talk about Port Arthur and Manchuria, so entirely had their attention been diverted to this display of activity, recalling the saying as to busying giddy minds with foreign quarrels.

Bazaar Rumours.—The local bazaar rumours have been very remarkable as to the Russo-Japanese struggle, and often, indeed, in advance of real events. Even last summer voyagers from the Persian Gulf by an occasional Russian ship would arrive in fear and trepidation of capture by some (purely imaginary) Japanese cruiser. Public sentiment seems to be distinctly anti-Russian, although this should not be so, if one is to judge from the material point of view, for Russia contributes considerably toward the annual pilgrimage, and a trifling proportion also of the imports of this country, whereas Japan's interests and trade are practically nil.

Health and Rainfall.—The public health in Hedjaz continues excellent, with no infectious diseases, and in spite of the comparatively cold weather recorded recently. The rainfall of the last three months has been rather more than for some years past; but the small quantity which has fallen in this town and neighbourhood is likely to produce as much harm as benefit, seeing that the old cement cisterns have been covered to the depth of a few inches only. At Yembo, however, there was abundant rain, and thus the pilgrims' wants will be fully met, while the numerous battalions of troops that have lately been passing to and fro will also have found good water in plenty. In general, too, the Bedouins will do better with their flocks and herds. The sanitation of the chief towns of the Hedjaz has been attended to, and the long-promised condensers (for Abu-Saad at least, if not for Yembo) are on the way.

The Haj.—The year's pilgrimage is now just attaining completion, and in spite of the slowness of arrivals in the beginning and the falling off of numbers from Yemen on account of the troubles there, and also of Malays and Javanese for various reasons, and besides the existence of plague at Aden, and a few cases at Suez, with the consequent quarantines, the attendance has been more than an average one; the absentees have been more than accounted for by the very unusually large number—14,000—from Egypt, and there have come some 12,000 from India, though Turks and those from the Barbary States may be rather fewer than usual. A strong escort, 400 troops with three guns, is this season accompanying the Egyptian Mahmal, as last year difficulty was experienced in their progress to Medina. The health of the 60,000 arrived has been good, and no disease has been observed save that five or six ships from Bombay had small-pox cases aboard. There are now twenty-five large pilgrim-ships in harbour, twelve British, five Turkish, three French, two Russian, two Greek, and one Italian, which will in a fortnight's time be re-embarking some 30,000 of the Hajis for the return home, or for the visit to Medina via Yembo.

Administration.—No special changes have to be reported, but just a month ago the resignation of Vali-Kaimakam Ali Yumni was said to have been accepted. He therefore continues in office only until his successor shall arrive. Shevket Pasha's and other names have been suggested in respect of the appointment, but none has yet been selected. It is believed in the meantime that the Vali disapproved of any definite appointment being made too hastily, and that if Ali Yumni should cease to remain Acting Kaimakam, his Excellency would send some officer from Mecca to be temporary stop-gap.

In the last Report of this series (*vide* No. 95 of the 23rd October, 1904) it was said that the Vali and Grand Shereef had undertaken most seriously to maintain better order in the district, more especially in respect of the pilgrim roads, and these assurances have been fairly well fulfilled during the past four months. Nevertheless, it was with a feeling of most unsatisfactory anxiety that the preparation of the Medina Haj caravan a few weeks ago was being watched, and, only now, its safe arrival and return to Mecca is noted with relief. The quieter state of the country is simply due to the fact that Bedouin tribal Chiefs and camel owners have received rather more than usual—perhaps 15 to 20 per cent.—and a sum of 3,000*l.* is being distributed besides, as a gratuity, to cover any arrears of annual allowances due to the Sheikhs.

Vali's Visit to Jeddah.—The unusually long residence of his Excellency from April to November was commented upon in the last Report, and ascribed to one cause or another; still that the Vali should occasionally make long sojourns here, thereby cultivating relations with the foreign Consulates and Europeans resident in his district, is desirable.

His functions, while absent from Mecca, were carried on by the Grand Shereef, which arrangement gave satisfaction generally, and was interpreted as a token of mutual esteem and confidence between the parties, and of trust and reliance on the part of the Porte. His Highness' health is, however, as previously reported, seriously undermined.

The unfortunate fact of Mecca being the vilayet head-quarters precludes the foreign Consuls from acquaintance with the more important Government functionaries, members of the Council, &c., military or other officers. These, on arrival, seldom delay an hour, but hasten on at once to join their post.

Shipping Notes.—Trade during the last four months received its regular yearly impetus from the frequent arrival of pilgrim-ships, but while commercial freights have kept steady, pilgrim traffic rates were unusually depressed owing to competition, and fares from Turkey and Syria have also been very low. The Russia Line steamers, which make the Odessa-Bussorah run, continue to call occasionally and are found useful for direct transmission between Jeddah and Constantinople, but it is to be regretted that their management is extremely lax, and lately a regrettable scandal occurred in respect of specie shipped in one of them. The Italian Company, Florio Rubattino, was last year contemplating a periodical visit to Jeddah, but seems now to have given up the idea.

Railways.—Of the Hedjaz Railway, we hear vaguely that progress is being made towards Medain Salih, and possibly the metals might be laid in eighteen months' time; but of the Mecca-Jeddah line no further glimpse of prospects has emanated. The Acaba branch has been recognized as very necessary, once more, with regard to the several military movements lately issuing thence.

In telegraphy the Hedjaz should afford a capital field for wireless experiments, but the chief difficulty seems to lie in the lack of skilled operators in Turkey. The once-mooted cable from Acaba, making the ever-more-wished-for link with Yembo, remains likely never to see realization.

Harbour, &c.—The state of the harbour has been rather less unsatisfactory lately, though it is surely anticipated that, unless radical measures be taken, the boat channel will be silted up within a comparatively short period. The rebuilding of the Thetis beacon continues to be neglected. The Health Office, however, have begun to execute some works upon Abu-Saad Island, with a view to the location of the condenser already above mentioned.

On the other hand, the proposals for rebuilding the custom-house depôt and offices, which were talked of two or three years ago, have presumably been altogether forgotten and abandoned.

No piracies have been brought to my knowledge during the four months, but those of last summer have remained unpunished.

A list of indemnities for robbery, for which recourse has been had to the local authorities, is annexed.

Slavery.—To conclude with a few remarks upon "slavery in the Red Sea," though the subject can scarce be named without a covert smile in allusion to Beaconsfield's newly-published novel. For the past twenty-five years this contraband import has been constantly diminishing, till now the term "kidnapping" should apply more accurately than "slave traffic." In a small way this goes on very occasionally from the thinly inhabited coasts opposite, while now and again slaves from this town make their escape to Suakim.

Owing to the recent famine and very disturbed state of Yemen, some few (Arabs and others) girls and young women have been again abducted from that province, although public opinion unreservedly condemns the practice and local authorities try to prevent it. Except for the Mecca pilgrimage, opportunity then offering for secret purchase and sale, the demand would be extremely trifling. The true Bedouin, however, still holds to every title of his ancient rights in slavery, and exacts the respect of them (which he accords to others freely) perhaps more absolutely and tenaciously than any other of his rights, and scarcely ever is he known to manumit voluntarily, or even conditionally, as by agreeing to self-redemption.

Regularly every year about a dozen slave cases are disposed of with the help of the local authorities at this Consulate. Usually about eight of these will be male town

slaves, and far too commonly so aged and decrepit as to be of little further use to their masters, who are only anxious to be relieved of the expense of their maintenance. In such cases a little light employment is provided here, and some kind-hearted person finds an occasion for charity. So, also, not unfrequently a pilgrim comes to the Holy Land under release of a vow to emancipate a slave, and suitable subjects of benevolence can then be offered him. The Vali himself, it is said, often practices this form of charity, and has procured by purchase during the last ten years the freedom of eighty or ninety able-bodied slaves who may have had some reasonable, even if slight, cause of complaint against their master.

Quite recently it was alleged that secret orders had been placed in this district for ten eunuchs to be purchased for the Palace, and that these had been procured after much search and difficulty at a cost of 600*l.* each, whereas formerly the price would range from 150*l.* to 400*l.*, the latter figure being paid for a young well-bred and most carefully-educated person. This would go to show how much scarcer the supply has been growing, and, whilst the demand is nowadays limited almost exclusively to the Palace, such an order as the above only issues about once in four or five years.

Jeddah, February 12, 1905.

List of Claims for Robberies during the Year 1904.

No.	Names of Claimants.	Date of Occurrence.	Date of Petition.	Date of Communication.	Place of Occurrence.	Amount claimed.	Description of Goods robbed.
1	Mohamed S. Ishak Allarakhia	November 3, 1905	November 4, 1903	November 7, 1903	Mecca Road	T. P. 4,227 00	Rice.
2	Mohamed Ibrahim Kotub	" 4, 1904	" 8, " "	" 9, " "	Mecca Road	1,800 00	Wheat.
3	Abdul Kadir Habeebulla	" 2, " "	" 5, " "	" 9, " "	Mecca Road	12,540 00	Piece-goods.
4	Abdullah J. aluddin and Co.	" 26, " "	" 30, " "	" 1, " "	" "	4,700 00	Cash.
5	Abdul Kadir Habeebulla	" 26, " "	" 30, " "	" 1, " "	" "	16,800 00	Piece-goods.
6	Mohamed Saleh Belladina	" 26, " "	" 30, " "	" 1, " "	" "	21,480 00	Piece-goods and rice.
7	Siddik Kinnara	August 29, " "	September 10, " "	September 12, " "	" "	11,948 00	Rice.
8	Abdullah Jamaluddin and Co.	September 5, " "	" 11, " "	" 12, " "	" "	31,240 00	Piece-goods.
9	Ishak Abdul-sattar	" 5, " "	" 11, " "	" 12, " "	" "	7,695 00	Tea.
10	Omar Ahmed Seidli	" 5, " "	" 11, " "	" 12, " "	" "	8,240 00	Barley, wheat, and sesum.
11	Mohamed Haroon and Mohamed Ismail	" 5, " "	" 11, " "	" 12, " "	" "	1,368 00	Sesum.
12	Mohamed Haroon and Mohamed Ismail	" 5, " "	" 11, " "	" 12, " "	" "	2,402 20	Sesum sweets.
13	Mohamed Haroon and Mohamed Ismail	" 5, " "	" 11, " "	" 12, " "	" "	19,685 00	Dora, piece-goods, &c.
14	Mohamed Fazil Arab	" 12, " "	" 28, " "	" 29, " "	Mecca Road	6,000 00	Rice.
15	Abou Bekr Fasil	" 5, " "	" 1, " "	" 3, " "	Mecca Road	180 00	Lentils.
16	Ishak Abdul-sattar	" 5, " "	" 1, " "	" 3, " "	Mecca Road	1,000 00	Wheat.
17	Mohamed S. Ishak Allarakhia	" 5, " "	" 31, " "	" 7, " "	Mecca Road	6,099 00	Rice.
18	Mohamed Haroon and Mohamed Ismail	October 30, " "	November 7, " "	" 19, " "	" "	7,500 00	Cotton goods.
19	Abdul S. A. Jabbar	" 30, " "	" 13, " "	" 19, " "	" "	7,600 00	Brassware.
20	S. Ahmed Jehra	" 30, " "	" 9, " "	" 19, " "	" "	7,642 00	China and enamelled goods.
21	Mohamed S. Ishak Allarakhia	December 22, " "	December 24, " "	December 26, " "	" "	16,087 20	Cash and notes.
22	Daoud Ismail	" 22, " "	" 24, " "	" 26, " "	" "	43,697 20	Cash and notes.
	Total ..					239,931 20	

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Report on the Yemen Vilayet, Administrative and Economic, from September 1, 1904, to January 31, 1905.

THE régime of Tewfik Bey, the new Vali of the Yemen, has opened with serious trouble throughout the vilayet, aggravated by the scourge of drought and famine.

As was anticipated, the general revolt began with the departure of Abdulla Pasha, the ex-Vali and Commander-in-chief, and has grown in intensity ever since.

Supplementing the information to hand given in previous reports on the internal affairs of this province, the latest accounts received describe the situation as being very grave.

After severing all communication between the capital and Hodeida, the rebel Arabs have attacked, with varying success, all the garrisoned places between Menakha and Sana'a.

The Turkish block-house 10 miles north-east of the former place was besieged by the insurgents, whereas the garrison at Mefaq, further east, surrendered for want of provisions.

The village of Suk-el-Khamis, including the telegraph office, fell into the hands of the rebels, who next invested and assaulted the two Turkish "karagols" (guard stations) at Buan, razing one to the ground.

Metneh or Senam Pasha, some 15 miles south-west of Sana'a, on the direct caravan route, where the Turks have a fort and a block-house with a garrison of about 100 men, including gendarmes, succumbed to the attacks of the Arabs. Two guns of small calibre, a number of rifles, a quantity of military stores and provisions, and some transport animals were captured. The officers of the garrison were allowed to proceed to Sana'a, but the soldiers retained as prisoners.

Sana'a itself was under fire and forced to repel the assaults of the rebels from the heights in the west and south.

The town of Rauda, the summer residence of the inhabitants of Sana'a, and some 5 miles north of it, went over to the Imam.

Amran and Taweela, to the north, that are under Turkish occupation and subject to frequent attacks from the Imam's quarter, I learn, were also taken, but the fate of the garrisons is unknown.

Colonel Riza Bey, the Commandant at Ta'iz, marched with 1,000 men with provisions and stores for Sana'a, but his advance was checked at Mau'bar, in spite of inflicting heavy losses on the Arabs.

Ibrahim Bey, the Mutesarrif of Hodeida, whom I reported as having left his head-quarters for Menakha to be joined by 2,000 Arabs from the plains with the object of forcing a passage to the capital with supplies and ammunition, was compelled to abandon his intention and disband his force and return to Hodeida on account of the opposition to his interference by the Turkish Commandant of the above place.

The scheme for raising a Hamidieh corps of 600 men at Hodeida attempted by Syed Ahmed es-Shirai Pasha proved a failure and has fallen through.

Troops are steadily pouring into the Yemen since the outbreak of the present revolt. Over 5,500 soldiers have been landed at Hodeida since October last, and others moved from Assyr.

The Imperial authorities have decided, on the recommendation of the new Vali-Adjoint, to dispatch twenty battalions from Syria and other places to the Yemen under the command of a General of the Fifth Army Corps, to pacify this province and to punish the Imam.

The Ministry of War recently requested Syed Ahmed Pasha to accept a contract to provision the additional troops, but the latter is disinclined to do so without the receipt of a substantial advance of 5,000*l.*, although the expenses of the above army are being guaranteed by the Crédit Lyonnais.

The local Customs have recently advanced a loan of 8,000*l.* to the military authorities for the maintenance of the troops in the Yemen Vilayet.

There was a rumour prevalent here yesterday that Hikmet Pasha and Colonel Ghalib Bey, with about 3,000 men and a considerable quantity of supplies for the besieged and starving garrison, had, after forced marches and serious opposition, succeeded in reaching Sana'a a couple of days ago.

Mahmoud Nedim Bey has been appointed Vali-Adjoint of this province, and arrived at Hodeida on the 3rd January. The appointment has given great satisfaction, as the above officer is very well known and greatly respected at Hodeida. He was the

President of the Commercial Tribunal there some fifteen years ago, and later at Jeddah in the same capacity. In 1894 Mahmoud Bey was nominated Kaïmakam of Zebeed and afterwards promoted to the Mutessariflik of Tripoli in Africa.

Ibrahim Bey, the new Mutessarif, on the other hand, does not appear to be at all popular among the natives of his district, being quite unfit for such a responsible post. Besides being illiterate and not possessed of either administrative ability or tact, many arbitrary acts committed since taking up his appointment have tended to still lower him in the estimation of the local community.

Two battalions of Redifs have mutinied at Cumfada, as already reported, and one at Camaran. The latter has 70 per cent. of its strength on the sick list, and several deaths occur here among the men almost daily.

Trade in general has been hampered, if not practically paralyzed, by a combination of circumstances prevailing in the country. Serious internal trouble, prolonged drought and famine, and the severe operation at Yemen ports of quarantine imposed against Aden have mainly contributed to the stagnation of trade.

Although cereals are allowed to be landed in quarantine from ships from Aden and Indian ports, there is not sufficient encouragement to ship-owners to make Hodeida a port of call on account of the low freights paid for the above article of import. Certain lines have discontinued calling at Hodeida since the outbreak of plague at Aden.

During December and January a good quantity of rain fell along the Yemen littoral, especially at Camaran; but information regarding the rainfall in the interior is not as yet available.

The Lazaret of Camaran was opened in October 1904, where 22,000 pilgrims from the East have been detained in quarantine *en route* to the Hedjaz. With the exception of a mild epidemic of small-pox, no infectious or contagious disease occurred.

The arrangements for the accommodation of the pilgrims during the present season have proved on the whole very satisfactory.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON,
His Majesty's Vice-Consul, Hodeida and Camaran.

Camaran, January 31, 1905.

P.S.—It is officially confirmed that the relieving force under General Hikmet Pasha entered Sana'a on the 29th January.

February 2, 1905.

G. A. R.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 26.)

Sir,

Hodeida, March 2, 1905.

SINCE the entry of General Arif Hikmet Pasha's force into Sana'a at the close of January last, there appears to be greater activity on the part of the Arab rebels throughout this province.

The strength of the Sana'a garrison is estimated at between 5,000 and 6,000 men now, and the provisions conveyed by the relieving force cannot last for any length of time.

Rauda was occupied by the Turkish troops last month, but Sana'a and the above place are closely invested on all sides.

I learn from Arabs that have succeeded in reaching this town from the capital, after undergoing great hardships, that transport camels and mules are being slaughtered to feed the troops, and that the rates for other food-stuffs, which are all running short, are most exorbitant. The price of a bag of flour has now risen to 7*l.*, and a sack of dhurra is not obtainable for less than 60 dollars (Maria Theresa), which is equivalent to about 5*l.* 10*s.*

The general impression here is that should further reinforcements with provisions not reach Sana'a within twenty days the garrison will be obliged to surrender.

Messages and despatches from the beleaguered capital are conveyed secretly by Arabs as far as Menakha and transmitted to Hodeida by post or telegraph.

News was received here yesterday that the insurgents had captured Hajje on the

For the transport of troops, the distance was divided into four stages:—

Maan—	Kilom.
Fuele	28
Guera	40
Abul Ha'ra	28
Akaba	20
Total	116

No villages exist along the route, and the supply of water is extremely limited, and has usually to be brought from points two to three hours either side of the route, so that small detachments with depôts of provisions were posted at the various stages, while the local Arabs supplied camel transport to bring water from springs in the adjoining hills to the halting places, where it was stored in barrels for the use of the troops.

At Fuele, the first stage, there is a small spring, but at the other points is practically no water. Near the ruins of Homeiyime a little water may be found, but along the Wadi Ithm in the later stages is deep sand, difficult for marching. On the second stage between Fuele and Guera is a steep rough descent from the level of the Maan plateau (3,300 feet), through the stony defile of the Bab-el-Ithm to a wide sandy valley which continues, bordered by rocky bare hills, to the head of the Akaba Gulf. The descent is quite impracticable for wheeled traffic.

The principal Beduin tribe along the route are the Howeitat, under Sheikh Arar, of whom the subsections Ibn Injad, El Imran, and Es Saidyiu are found near the head of the Gulf of Akaba; while the subsections Ez Zowaidi, El Amamre, and Er Rajif (a small tribe) are to be found along the route.

Of these, Sheikh Arar and the Ibn Injad supplied some 1,500 camels.

The troops made the railway journey in open trucks, and obtained sufficient biscuit and water along the way and from depôts at Maan, but on the march thence to Akaba, they suffered much from want of provisions and water, and many died on the way, while desertions were very frequent during the railway journey and on the march. For these reasons it was decided to discontinue sending troops by this route. Muzaffer Pasha, Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, was specially sent to Akaba to supervise embarkation, and to distribute the new Mauser rifles on the arrival of the men at Akaba.

A few days' instruction in the working of the new weapon was given before embarking.

Akaba is only a small place of twenty-five huts, occupied by Arabs, who support themselves by fishing, while near by is an old masonry fort which usually has a garrison of 200 infantry detached from the Hejaz Division (head-quarters, Mecca), and about twenty zaptiehs. Hitherto there has been no telegraph line to Akaba from Maan, which has a station on the Damascus-Medina line, but the construction has been sanctioned, and has now begun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché.

No. 3.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 280.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 25, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a report by Colonel Maunsell on the progress of events in the Yemen.

Colonel Maunsell, who has just returned from Syria, is in a position to confirm the reports recently received respecting the extreme reluctance of the recruits to serve in the Yemen and of the frequency of desertion.

It is clear that Riza Pasha, Commander of the Ottoman troops, who is now shut up at Sana'a, is in a very precarious position, and that owing to lack of transport his speedy relief will be a matter of much difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 13.)

Sir,

Constantinople, April 22, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Syrian Brigade of Redifs of St. Jean d'Acre, which has been slowly mobilizing for the past month, under orders to proceed to the Yemen, has now been ordered to stand fast, and no more Syrian troops are to be sent there.

The brigade was mobilized only with the greatest difficulty, and it was not an unfrequent sight in the environs of Haifa to see detachments of men who had deserted being brought in, bound with cords and escorted by zaptiehs, while some paid large sums to provide substitutes. The want of money in the Syrian vilayets, and unwillingness of the men to serve in the Yemen, retarded mobilization.

Service in Macedonia would have been quite popular, and it was the constant lack of supplies, with starvation rations, which the men feared most in the Yemen. The Syrian Redifs already sent have shown a tendency to sympathize with the enemy, and many have actually deserted and joined the rebels, so that now the decision has been taken to employ either Osmanli or races other than Syrian to quell the rebellion. The Syrian Redifs also found great difficulty in understanding the Mauser rifles that were thrust into their hands just before embarking at Akaba or on leaving Hodeida for the front, and they had no previous knowledge of the weapon.

As might be expected, Palace interference is evident everywhere; and, as an example, one day the Commandant of the Haifa Redifs was detained for several hours at the telegraph office, in direct communication with the Palace, discussing the difficulties of mobilization.

The War Office and the General Staff (mobilization section), whose duty it is to direct such operations, are practically ignored.

To replace the Syrian Redifs it has been decided to send the following:—

(a.) The 11th Nizam Brigade (21st and 22nd regiments) from Yanina and other posts guarding the western portion of the Greek frontier, and belonging to the 3rd (Macedonian) Corps, with one field and two mountain batteries from Scutari in Albania.

(b.) The Rize Redif Brigade (27th) from the Black Sea coast, recruited from the neighbouring mountains of Lazistan.

(c.) All this year's recruits of the Konia Division, which forms part of the 2nd (Adrianople) Corps.

If these battalions can be made up to 700 strong each, which is very doubtful, as the men of the Laz Brigade especially are trying every means to evade service, this should mean a reinforcement of some 20,000 men.

To replace those withdrawn from Yanina and the Greek frontier, it has been decided to call out the 17th Redif Brigade, which belongs to the same districts, i.e., Southern Albania and Monastir; but, probably remembering their long and arduous service under arms, and their treatment when disbanded a year ago, they show great unwillingness to join the colours. In the Yemen, the Mushir Riza Pasha has ultimately forced his way into Sanaa, with considerable loss in men and guns; but now the rebels have closed in behind him and the place is again closely invested, all communication having been cut off now for some days.

Owing to urgent orders from the Palace, the Mushir was obliged to hurry inland to make an effort to relieve Sanaa, then also in a critical position, but he was obliged to leave with insufficient forces to cope with such a strong body of rebels, estimated now at 40,000 men.

Owing to Palace interference in the arrangements, and mainly owing to the want of transports, the reinforcements arrive in dribbles, and are liable to be overwhelmed in detail by the rebels; besides which the supply of provisions and transport is most defective; so that, although the Mushir Riza Pasha, and especially his Chief of the Staff, Izzet Pasha, are both most capable officers, who have studied in Germany, they have been able to make little headway against Palace muddling, and have had to sacrifice themselves.

Sea transport being so deficient, the troops from the Black Sea and Adriatic coasts will take six weeks or perhaps two months before they can arrive complete, with the necessary baggage animals to move up country from Hodeida.

24th February, and the report is even confirmed by the local authorities. A garrison of about 1,200, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Tewfik Bey, that was maintained at the above place, was forced to surrender through starvation, and were made prisoners and immediately removed to the Imam's territory. General Yussuf Pasha, from Hujjur, is marching with a strong force to retake Hajje from the rebels.

On the eastern frontiers of Turkish Yemen, the towns of Yerim, Damar, Rida', and Wa'lan have fallen during the past fifteen or twenty days, and their respective small garrisons, ranging from 60 to 100 men, made prisoners.

Mau'bar, about 40 miles south-west of Sana'a, that had been reached by Colonel Riza Bey with 1,000 men from Ta'iz some six weeks ago, has been under siege ever since.

About 3,500 troops and a considerable quantity of rifles, ammunition, and other military stores have been landed since the beginning of February, and dispatched with all haste to Menakha to await further reinforcements.

General Riza Pasha, from Tripoli in Africa, recently selected to command the Ottoman forces in Yemen, is expected to arrive daily with 2,000 men.

A forward movement will be made when 8,000 troops are available, as it will be necessary to regarrison the various positions on the lines of communication between Sana'a and Menakha when retaken from the rebels.

The question of transport is a serious one to be grappled with locally, in view of the scarcity of camels and mules procurable at present in this part of Yemen.

The provisioning of the division now being landed for service has been intrusted under contract to Syyed Ahmed es-Shirai Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 30.)

Sir,

Hodeida, March 21, 1905.

SINCE the last report submitted on this province, I have the honour to inform you that the revolutionary movement has progressed up to a few days ago, but there is every hope that, with the large reinforcements that are now steadily pouring into Hodeida, the same will be speedily checked.

During the current month 5,263 Turkish troops have been landed at this port, which would bring the strength of the reinforcements from the beginning of this year up to a total of nearly 13,000. Only about 2,000 of the latter are recruits, the remainder being either Redifs or regulars from Syria, many of whom have seen previous service in this vilayet.

There has also been an adequate and proportionate increase in the number of Generals attached to this corps. Three Colonels, viz., Riza Bey, of the Ta'iz district, and Colonels Ghalib and Syeed Bey, of the Sana'a division, have been promoted to Brigadier-Generals (Liwa); and Generals Izzat and Ali Pasha (promoted from Colonels), both staff officers from Syria, have arrived in the Yemen with the division now being landed. There are, in short, three Major-Generals (Feriks), eight Brigadier-Generals (Liwass), in Yemen under the command of Riza Pasha, who was specially accorded the rank of Marshal a few days ago.

The insurgents carried away big spoils after the surrender of Hajje, already reported. The strength of the garrison there was considerably over 1,800 men, who were subjected to a close investment for over three months. The troops refused to hold out any longer, and laid down their arms, as there were no provisions left in the town. The Commander, Major Tewfik Bey, thereupon committed suicide by shooting himself. Four other officers were made prisoners and removed to the Imam's region. The capture of guns included six 4-centim., five 6- or 7-centim., and one 12-centim. cannon. The Arabs also took 3,000 cases of ammunition and 2,500 rifles, excluding those taken from the surrendered troops.

For the past ten days, soldiers that formed the Hajje garrison are daily arriving here in small bodies, naked and foot-sore and in a miserable plight. Up to date over 500 men have come in.

After the fall of Hajje, the insurgents attacked and captured the town of Husseib, where Lieutenant-Colonel Sadi Bey was stationed with 150 men. It is rumoured that

[1535]

D

the Colonel was killed, but other accounts state that this noted and brave Turkish officer is either a prisoner in the Imam's hands or has escaped and is in hiding. Two 6½-centim. guns, 1,500 rifles, and a large quantity of provisions were captured by the rebels at Hussein.

In the meanwhile, General Yussuf Pasha, who is at Kufi, in the Hujjur district, has been besieged, but is well provisioned, has a strong force that can hold out for many months, and holds a strong and well-fortified position.

About ten days ago the local Mutessarif and Syied Ahmed es-Shirai Pasha proceeded to Kushm, in the Zaidya district, about three days' march northward from Hodeida, where there is a large Turkish commissariat depôt, and, with the assistance of certain friendly Sheiks, succeeded in dispatching provisions to Kufi.

Colonel Riza Bey (now Brigadier-General), who had marched with a force some time ago from Ta'iz but was interrupted at Mau'bar, proceeded with four battalions to the relief of the Doran district. Being hard pressed, and finding the various positions in Anis untenable and supplies running short, Riza Bey beat a retreat westward, and, after sustaining some loss, arrived on the 6th instant with 1,500 men at Hujjeila, after a five-days' march. Riza Pasha is now here, and the majority of his troops have since been dispatched to Menakha.

The 5,000 reinforcements that have been landed during the current month were expeditiously moved to Menakha, which place Marshal Riza Pasha reached on the 10th instant, and from where operations are being directed towards the relief of Sana'a.

Some 500 camel loads of provisions and military stores are now accompanying a force of 8,000 men under the command of Brigadier-General Izzat Pasha.

I learn that the advance guard of the above army reached the town of Buan, about 25 miles south of Sana'a, yesterday, leaving strong detachments with supplies at Mefaq and Suk-el-Khamis en route.

It is expected here that Sana'a will be relieved within the course of the next few days.

Six battalions of infantry still remain at Akabah awaiting transport, and these will shortly arrive here by the Mahsoussi steamers "Hodeida," "Kamil Pasha," and "Mecca."

I have been informed that six other battalions of regulars or Redifs will also be sent to Yemen for service from either Constantinople or Anatolia, when there will be between 45,000 and 50,000 troops comprising the Seventh Army Corps.

A movement from Mokha is shortly projected to strengthen Ta'iz, relieve Ibb, now under investment, and to re-establish communication with Sana'a from that direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

No. 2.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 279.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 25, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 231 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché at this Embassy, containing notes of the route between Maan and Akaba.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 15.)

Sir,

Constantinople, April 22, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following notes on the route from Maan to Akaba, along which the Syrian Redif troops marched last month to embark for the Yemen at Akaba.

But they will probably be pushed forward in small detachments, as has usually been done up to the present.

Orders were given some three weeks ago to collect 2,000 transport animals in Syria, but the Vali of Damascus said it could only be done with the greatest difficulty owing to want of money.

Shakir Pasha, Vali of Kossovo, now on his way to Yemen to endeavour to introduce reforms, is a very capable soldier, educated in Germany, and who has twice had successful experience in quelling disturbances in Albania during the last two years. It is probable he will now be appointed in command of a further expedition to relieve Sana'a and the Mushir Riza Pasha shut up therein.

As long as the stronghold of Menakha remains in Turkish hands there may be some hope of success, as it is an important point half-way between the capital and the coast; but reinforcements are still far off, and as the rebels have now captured quite a considerable force of artillery they may be able to batter down the high masonry walls and towers which are the sole protection of Sana'a. The opinion commonly expressed in military circles is, that were it not for the threatening situation in Macedonia, a crushing force could easily be sent to reconquer the Yemen. It is clear, however, that Macedonia cannot be neglected, although the most strenuous efforts must be made to uphold Turkish rule in Yemen, owing to the important religious and political consequences which would ensue were it lost to them and the trouble spread farther north to the Moslem holy places. Attached is a photograph,* showing a Syrian Redif battalion on the march near the Jordan, which gives an idea of their lack of equipment and their discipline.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Military Attaché.

No. 4.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

No. 283.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 26, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 280 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a report indicating that the position of the Turks in the Yemen is most critical, and that Menakha, where there is a large depôt of cannon and military stores, is in danger of falling into the hands of the rebels. The Minister of War has now received instructions to see that the whole force designated should at once be dispatched to the spot, and it has been pointed out to him that none of the troops from the European provinces have yet been sent off, and that of those called out at Trebizond, only a very few have yet reached Hodeida.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 141.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 1, 1905.

I HAVE had under my consideration, in communication with the Secretary of State for India, your Excellency's despatch No. 223 of the 4th ultimo, reporting that Mr. Fitzmaurice had raised two new points in connection with the Aden boundary delimitation, upon which, however, it appeared to you unnecessary to insist, and that you had telegraphed to Mr. Fitzmaurice accordingly.

Your action in the matter is approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

* Not reproduced.

No. 6.

Sir H. Howard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 68.)

My Lord,

The Hague, May 1, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 33 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I communicated this day to the Secretary-General of the International Bureau at The Hague nine copies of the Counter-Case on behalf of His Majesty's Government in the pending arbitration with the Government of the French Republic in regard to the grant of the French flag to Muscat dhows, and explained that five of these copies are intended for the use of the French Government, one for the archives of the International Bureau, and the remaining three for transmission respectively to each of the two Arbitrators, and to the Umpire, when appointed.

In exchange, I have received from M. de Ruyssenaers ten copies of the Counter-Case on behalf of the Government of France in the said arbitration, which had been furnished to him by the French Minister at this Court for transmission to His Majesty's Government, and of which I have the honour to forward herewith nine copies, having kept one copy for the archives of this Legation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

No. 7.

Sir H. Howard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 69.)

My Lord,

The Hague, May 1, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have this day communicated to the Secretary General of the International Bureau at The Hague, the certified copies of correspondence between your Lordship and the French Ambassador at the Court of St. James, in regard to an objection raised by the French Government to the introduction of the name of the Sultan of Muscat in the British Case as one of the parties in the Muscat Dhow Arbitration, which accompanies your Lordship's despatch No. 31 of the 29th ultimo.

While adding that I have explained to M. de Ruyssenaers that one copy of each of the four documents transmitted to him is intended for each of the two Arbitrators, one for the Umpire when appointed, and the fourth for the Archives of the International Bureau.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

No. 8.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 3.)**India Office, May 3, 1905.*

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Campbell's letter of the 13th March last, relative to the proposed visit of the French Vice-Consul at Muscat to Sür in January last, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to transmit, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copies of telegrams which have passed between this Office and the Government of India on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

*Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.**March 22, 1905.*(Telegraphic.) P.
MUSCAT.

Exception is taken by the Foreign Office to Grey's action, as reported in his letter of the 14th January last, in moving the Sultan to refuse French Vice-Consul facilities

15

for his journey to Sür, which, it is presumed, would be accorded as a matter of course to the British Consul. Our relations with Muscat do not, in the opinion of the Foreign Office, justify such interference, and they are not prepared to defend it in the event of protest being made by French Government. Grey should be careful about intervening between the French Consul and the Sultan in questions of this kind in the absence of specific orders, and I request that he may be instructed accordingly.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P.

MUSCAT.

April 19, 1905.

Your telegram of 22nd ultimo, in regard to secret visit of French Vice-Consul to Sür, was repeated to Political Agent, Muscat, for his guidance. He now explains that he only suggested to Sultan that he should recommend Vice-Consul not to proceed in the direction of Sür, owing to the increase of anti-European feeling occasioned by recent events connected with Maseerah Island, and the unsettled condition of the tribes. He says that he did not move the Sultan to refuse facilities for journey.

(Repeated to Muscat and Bushire.)

No. 9.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 153.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 3, 1905.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me to-day, and I took advantage of the opportunity to mention to him several matters which have recently formed the subject of discussions between yourself and the Turkish Government.

After touching on the obstructive attitude which the Turkish Government had adopted during the six months preceding the final settlement of the Aden frontier, I pointed out to his Excellency that while Railway Concessions with heavy kilometric guarantees were being constantly granted to foreign Companies, the only British line in Asia Minor, the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, which was self-supporting and enjoyed no such guarantee, was persistently refused the extension which it urgently requires. The representations of His Majesty's Ambassador in support of the Company were disregarded, and the attitude of the Porte constituted, in effect, an unfriendly discrimination against British enterprise.

I then mentioned the arbitrary withdrawal from the British Steam-ship Companies in the Persian Gulf of privileges in regard to supplies of coal, which they had enjoyed for many years, and the repeated refusal of the Sublime Porte to grant to the British Khedivial Mail Company coaling facilities similar to those permitted to all other foreign mail-steamers entering the port of Constantinople. These complaints had been the subject of representations not only by His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, but also by myself to his Excellency, but up to the present time nothing whatever had been done to meet them.

I added that further grounds for dissatisfaction were:—

The obstructive attitude of the Sublime Porte towards all British mining enterprise in Turkey and the refusal of concessions to British subjects, even in cases where they have incurred large sacrifices in preliminary operations with the full consent of the Turkish Government.

Again, the Sublime Porte had up to the present time failed to fulfil its solemn promises to pay within a specified period to the British concessionaires the remaining moiety, with interest, of the purchase-money of the Haifa-Damascus Railway.

The treatment by the Turkish Government of the British firms interested in the construction of ships of war and the provision of munitions of war had also been singularly unfair. British ship-building firms had modified their terms in accordance with the demands of the Turkish authorities but without result, while the tenders made by British manufacturers of arms at the invitation of the Imperial authorities had been subsequently rejected in favour of the less advantageous offers of foreign rivals. In neither case had any explanation been vouchsafed of the conduct of the Turkish authorities.

I furnished his Excellency with a Memorandum corresponding with the observations which I had made, and he undertook to communicate the substance of them to the Turkish Government.

Before leaving my room his Excellency handed to me an *aide-memoire*, in which it was stated that a report had lately been received by the Porte from the Vali of Bussorah to the effect that four British war-ships, which were at that moment at Koweit, were, notwithstanding the opposition of the Sheikh, carrying out certain operations in the neighbourhood of Djehre, Beana, and Umkasr as a preliminary to the construction of fortifications around Koweit. Such proceedings were, his Excellency said, of a nature to constitute a violation of the *status quo*, of which the maintenance at Koweit had been agreed upon by the two Governments, and he was instructed to call my attention to the matter.

I asked his Excellency what evidence there was to corroborate the Vali's statement that the presence of these British ships had anything whatever to do with the construction of fortifications in the neighbourhood of Koweit. I thought we had good reasons for complaining of the manner in which such allegations were continually put forward by the Turkish Government, and I told his Excellency that the distorted and often baseless reports of alleged English proceedings in the Persian Gulf and on the coast of Arabia furnished by Turkish officials to the Sublime Porte—reports which, on examination, invariably proved to be incorrect—exhibited such marked hostility and ill-will, and such an evident desire to create ill-feeling between the two Governments, that His Majesty's Government considered they had a right to demand that the officers who were responsible for them should be censured, and, if the practice was continued, removed from their posts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSLOWNE.

No. 10.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 6th April, relative to the recent disturbances at Bahrein.

India Office, May 3, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Bahrein, March 4, 1905.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with Foreign Department telegram, dated the 18th February, to my address, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a report regarding the measures since taken at Bahrein.

2. I arrived at Bahrein on the evening of the 23rd February in His Majesty's ship "Redbreast," which had been placed at my disposal by the Senior Naval Officer in lieu of the "Lawrence," recently deputed to assist the operations of the Gazetteer party on the southern coast of Oman. At Bahrein there were already His Majesty's ship "Sphinx," which had been on duty there for some days as guard-ship, and His Majesty's ship "Fox," under the command of Captain J. B. Eustace, Senior Naval Officer, which had preceded me from Bushire.

In order to save daylight I did not wait for the Sheikh's usual visit on board, but landed at once and asked him to pay his visit at the Agency the following morning.

Captain Prideaux, Assistant Political Agent, had kept him informed as far as possible of my movements, and had advised him, for the more expeditious transaction of business, to take up his residence at Manama during my stay, but this he had not arranged to do, and when I arrived he was himself residing at Muharrug as

usual, while his son, Sheikh Hamed, with his zenana, was absent at his country house some miles outside the town. Sheikh Esa, however, came over to call upon me in the morning as requested, accompanied only by his young grandson Khalifa, an apparently nice boy of 14 or 15 years, whom the Chief almost invariably has in his company. The Senior Naval Officer and Captain Prideaux were present at the interview, and the usual formalities were exchanged. As soon as these were concluded, I informed the Sheikh that I had come over to make an important communication to him on behalf of Government, and requested him to be present at the same hour next morning to receive it.

He expressed his willingness to do so, and as he had already been informed by Captain Prideaux, at the time of the settlement of the German case, that had the orders of Government been received in time, Sheikh Ali would not have been allowed to return, I thought it as well to warn him before leaving that the departure of his nephew from Bahrein was an item of the decision of Government in regard to the recent cases, and that he had better cause him to make preparations for early departure. I also told him that his son Hamed's proper place was beside his father, and that I hoped that he would be forthwith summoned from his suburban residence.

3. The Chief arrived up to time next morning, accompanied by his son Abdulla and the grandson before mentioned, and was received with suitable honours at the agency. His eldest son Hamed was still absent, but was expected.

With me were the Senior Naval Officer, Captain Prideaux, Assistant Political Agent, Commander Bowman of His Majesty's ship "Sphinx," and Lieutenant Gabriel, now at Bahrein on Gazetteer duty.

The ultimatum of Government was duly presented to the Chief in the detailed form, of which a translation forms Inclosure No. 1 of this Report. The only special remark which the terms of it seem to call for is in reference to demand No. 1, to which I added the names of the four persons who had before been flogged and expelled in connection with the German case, but who had since been allowed by Sheikh Esa to reappear in Manama.

Having mastered the details of the ultimatum, as now presented to him, the Sheikh proceeded to press persistently, and to advance every possible pretext, for an extension of the time—namely, twenty-four hours—given for compliance, and an analysis of his protestations made it evident that it was especially in connection with the deportation of Sheikh Ali that he was so anxious to gain time. In view, however, of the fact that he had already had two months in which to ponder over my previous demands and his own position, and that the foundation of his present attempts to procrastinate could hardly be anything else than the hope of ultimately evading our demands, his successive entreaties for six, five, four, three, or even two days were not acceded to, and as soon as he had been furnished with a copy of the ultimatum the meeting was adjourned until the following morning.

I would draw attention here to the fact that throughout my previous visit, and up to now, the contingency of his being impotent to produce either Sheikh Ali or the other men wanted had never been suggested or allowed by the Sheikh. On the contrary, he had always sought to preserve the polite fiction that they were entirely under his control.

4. Shortly after noon Sheikh Abdulla returned to the Agency and informed Captain Prideaux that, having been ordered by his father on leaving our presence, to send another summons to his brother and uncle, and also to warn Sheikh Ali to present himself before the Chief at Muharrug, he had in due course proceeded to Sheikh Ali's house, and from the latter's response he feared that he was likely to abscond during the night. He was directed to inform his father at once, and to warn him to take immediate steps to insure his nephew's presence in the morning as arranged.

At 3.30 p.m. Sheikh Esa himself came over again from Muharrug, accompanied by a dhow full of armed followers. He came straight to the Agency, and informed me that Sheikh Ali evidently intended to abscond, if he had not already done so, and that he had therefore brought some armed men for the purpose of arresting him, but that to this end he would be glad of the moral support of some representative of the British Agency, or of a few sepoys from the Agency guard. How far he was now acting in good faith it was difficult to say, neither was there time to ascertain, but it seemed to me that if we now refused to co-operate with him he might afterwards plead that if he had been given the slight assistance asked for he would have been able to comply with this item of the ultimatum. Accordingly it was decided

[1535]

F

that Captain Prideaux and Lieutenant Gabriel should accompany the Sheikh's men, with a dozen sepoys from the infantry detachment, but that they should remain in the background, and only give assistance in case it was actually required. At the same time the Senior Naval Officer was asked by signal to co-operate from the harbour, and he did so by sending two armed boats to lie off the shore opposite Sheikh Ali's house.

The Chief's son, Abdulla, was in charge of the former's men, and it was left to him to enter the house and endeavour to induce Sheikh Ali to give himself up. In the interval Sheikh Esa himself remained in my company at the Agency, and we were now joined by his brother Sheikh Khalid, of Ruffa, and his son Sheikh Hamed.

It soon transpired, however, that Ali had escaped earlier in the day, immediately on receiving Sheikh Abdulla's message (or warning?), and accordingly Sheikh Khalid left shortly afterwards, ostensibly furnished with peremptory instructions from the Chief to scour the island during the night in search of his fugitive nephew.

It would probably have been possible to have prevented Sheikh Ali's escape by putting bluejackets ashore in the morning and surrounding his house, but that would have been a more or less hostile act which it did not seem that we were justified in taking before the expiry of the twenty-four hours allowed for compliance with the terms of the ultimatum.

5. This period expired at 9 A.M. the following morning, the 26th February, and on that day Sheikh Esa arrived at the Agency half an-hour before the time, accompanied by his sons Hamed and Abdulla.

He intimated that he had brought with him the 2,000 rupees demanded as compensation for the Persians, and also the draft notification in connection with the application of the right of "sukhra." (This was subsequently amended and provisionally approved by me and issued in the form shown in Inclosure No. 2.) He added that the fifty men whom he had been called upon to furnish as a bazaar guard would be produced for inspection at any time that might be appointed. With regard, however, to items 1 and 4 of the ultimatum, he stated that he had so far been unable to lay hands on any of the ten men required, and he had obtained no further news of Sheikh Ali, as his brother Khalid had not yet returned. He nevertheless expressed his desire to comply with the orders of Government, and agreed to assist us in annexing such attachable property as his nephew might have left behind.

A little later Sheikh Khalid returned, but his appearance evidenced no trace of the exhausting effect which his all-night exertions might have been expected to produce on a man of his age. He reported that he had ascertained that Sheikh Ali, with eight or ten followers, had escaped to the mainland in the boat of some fishermen which they had commandeered at a village on the eastern extremity of the island, opposite Katr.

The Senior Naval Officer, Captain Prideaux, and myself, in consultation, now came to the conclusion that, even presuming that Sheikh Esa had connived at Sheikh Ali's escape, his compliance with three of the demands and his agreement to hand over the fugitive's property made it hardly justifiable for us to proceed to extremities, but it was decided to call upon him forthwith to send his son Hamed on board one of the men-of-war, both as a hostage and as a proof of his own faith.

After considerable demur on his own part and that of his son, he finally accepted the situation, and Sheikh Hamed was at once sent off in a man-of-war's boat to His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" on the understanding that, if found necessary, he should be detained there pending receipt of further telegraphic instructions from Government. The Sheikh was also assured on our own part that it was not part of our intention to deport Hamed to Muscat or elsewhere in lieu of Sheikh Ali.

6. Sheikh Hamed having embarked, steps were then taken to annex on behalf of Government Sheikh Ali's house and realisable property, after allowing sufficient time for his zenana to be removed and suitably housed elsewhere with their immediate personal and household necessities. They were taken charge of by Sheikh Khalid. A detachment of Marines was landed by the Senior Naval Officer to surround the house and keep order during its attachment, and the same course was followed the next day while Sheikh Ali's effects were being removed. As soon as the house was completely cleared out it was placed in charge of a sepoy guard from the Agency, which will now be conveniently housed there pending the erection of permanent quarters for them. I may mention that while co-operating with us in the attachment of the house Sheikh Esa asked me to take cognizance of the fact that it was not, according to him, Sheikh Ali's absolute property, but was in fact the "Government House" of Manama, and

part of the ancestral possessions of the Al-khalifa family. I shall discuss this point, however, in a separate communication, and merely mention it incidentally here.

Two native crafts, pointed out by Sheikh Esa as belonging to his nephew, were burnt where they lay, and the remainder of his property, consisting of personal effects and live-stock, were collected at the Agency for distribution and sale in due course. I shall address Government subsequently with regard to the disposal of the proceeds of the effects confiscated, which it was obviously not desirable to keep in Bahrein.

7. On the 28th February the Sheikh definitely intimated that Sheikh Ali and the ten culprits had escaped from Bahrein territory to the mainland, and that he was altogether unable to produce them. At the same time he undertook to publish notifications proclaiming their banishment, and offering a reward of 10,000 rupees for Sheikh Ali's arrest and 200 rupees for that of each of the ten hooligans. Translations of these notices form Inclosures 3 and 4.

So far, then, as the actual terms of the ultimatum were concerned, all the measures that were rendered practicable by the circumstances had now been taken; there remained to be considered, however, the case of the Mullah brothers, Jasim and Ahmed-bin-Mahza, whose sinister influence in Manama had been brought into marked relief during the recent incidents.

During the present proceedings they had been wise enough to abstain, outwardly at all events, from any special intrigue which would in itself have warranted the taking of drastic measures against them, but I was quite at one with Captain Prideaux in thinking that it would be a mistake to allow the present measures to close without administering to them a warning calculated to prompt them to conduct themselves in future with more circumspection, and to refrain from interfering in matters of government outside their priestly functions.

I therefore suggested to the Sheikh, whose attitude had now become much more satisfactory and submissive, that he should send them both over to the Agency to visit me, giving them at the same time on my behalf an absolute assurance of safe conduct and courteous treatment while here. This course he readily assented to. In the result the elder brother, Sheikh Jasim, came over at once, accompanied by the Chief's brother Khalid. They both made excuses for Sheikh Ahmed, who, they naively assured me, had been out of his house when the message was sent them, but had been summoned from his garden and would present himself later in the evening. It subsequently transpired that immediately on getting the Sheikh's message he had followed the example of Sheikh Ali, and had decamped after removing everything from his house. Stronger proof than this of his disaffection, or better justification of previous opinions expressed with regard to him, could hardly be wished for. Sheikh Jasim, who on his first coming had been spoken to very plainly, paid the Agency two or three hurried visits within the ensuing twenty-four hours, in the course of which he managed to divest himself of most of the unctuous pomposity which he had at first assumed, and now professed to admit freely the error of his brother's ways and his unbecoming interference in matters which did not concern him. He, however, expressed the confident hope of being able to bring Sheikh Ahmed in, and begged as a personal favour, for which he would always remain mindful, to be given a little law for this purpose before any notice of banishment were issued against him. He was accordingly granted twenty-four hours, and informed at the same time that after that no further law would be given unless he himself went on board one of the men-of-war as a hostage pending his brother's submission. It was never expected that he would commit himself to such a course, but the twenty-four hours having elapsed he at once took me at my word, and, coming over to the Agency on first instance, expressed his desire to proceed on board His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" in the hope that the communication to his brother of the fact that he, Sheikh Jasim, had surrendered himself as a hostage to us, would induce him to return. The embarkation on board one of His Majesty's ships of so venerable a Minister, and one who had hitherto considered himself too important a personage even to call upon the British Representative, was an incident likely to have such an excellent effect upon the native mind that no difficulties were placed in his way, and he forthwith left the shore in a man-of-war's boat to join Sheikh Hamed on the "Sphinx," where the accommodation was the most suitable, and where he appears to have made himself thoroughly at home.

The precise agreement upon which he went was that his stay should not be permitted to extend over seventy-two hours, and that if his brother, who had probably crossed to the mainland, could not be brought in within that time, the latter would be posted as under ban of expulsion and would not be allowed to return to Bahrein.

8. The following morning, 2nd March, there being no further need of the presence

of three men-of-war, the Senior Naval Office with His Majesty's ship "Fox" left for Bombay, whither she had been ordered to proceed immediately on the conclusion of her work here. Before Captain Eustace's departure, however, he, Captain Prideaux, and I, paid an official visit to Sheikh Esa, in order to show him and the public that coercive measures were now at an end as far as the action of His Majesty's ship was concerned. I forgot to mention above that on the 26th instant we had insisted on the Sheikh coming over to live in Manama for the remainder of my stay, his residence away at Muharrug rendering speedy communication with him so difficult. After a good deal of demur on the score of inconvenience he arranged to do so from the 27th February.

I take this opportunity of giving expression to my thanks for the very cordial and effective assistance and support which I received from the Senior Naval Officer, Captain Eustace, throughout the interviews and proceedings generally, during which he was at all times in close touch and consultation with myself and Captain Prideaux. I would also record appreciation of the work done by Lieutenant-Commander Somerville of His Majesty's ship "Redbreast," who, during some weeks spent here on survey and guard duty, had obtained a quantity of detailed information, and had prepared sketches of important sections of the islands which would have been most valuable had it become necessary to open hostilities.

9. In view of the fact that possession of Sheikh Ali's person was not effected, the measures taken can hardly be regarded as completely satisfactory, but, on the other hand, it may perhaps be considered that the fact that Sheikh Ali has by his flight to the mainland placed himself under sentence of complete banishment, is from some points of view a more convenient dénouement than an alternative which would have entailed our watching him and perhaps maintaining him for some years to come. At any rate, the Sheikh of Bahrein seems to me to have been thoroughly brought to his bearings, while loss of life and local upheaval have been obviated. I trust, therefore, that on the whole the Government of India will be satisfied with the measures taken, even if the terms of the ultimatum have not been completely fulfilled.

10. Since the above paragraphs were written, the truant Mullah, Sheikh Ahmed, has repented of his precipitate flight and surrendered himself. The delay in his return has been due to the fact that he had already reached the mainland of Katr when his brother's last message reached him. Sheikh Jasim has accordingly been allowed to disembark from the "Sphinx," and after interviewing both brothers together in the presence of Captain Prideaux and reading them a very frank homily on the unsatisfactory character of their demeanour in the past, and the intention of the Residency and of Government not to tolerate any repetition of it in future, I have allowed them to go their way, after a friendly expression of the hope, and the warning, that they should in future limit their exertions to their recognized sphere, and maintain the friendly relations with this Agency which they admit that our forbearance has now inaugurated.

11. Before leaving Bahrein I have given further consideration to the question of Sheikh Hamed's detention. The conditions of it were explained in paragraph 5 above. Since then, granting the initial fact, or presumption, that Sheikh Ali was allowed by him to escape, Sheikh Esa has so far shown his desire to act in accord with the wishes of Government by handing over his nephew's house and property, and by issuing the Proclamations set forth in the inclosures to this Report. There are several questions connected with the immediate future of the administration of Government in Bahrein which it will be necessary to place before the Government of India, and this I shall proceed to do with as little delay as possible; meanwhile, Sheikh Hamed's temporary detention on board His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" and the other incidents of the last few days will, I hope, have imbued him with some sense of his own impotence, and the futility of imagining that he and his father can continue with impunity to flout the wishes of the British Government, to whom indeed they owe everything. I propose, therefore, after consulting Captain Prideaux, to allow him to return to the shore before I leave Bahrein to-day.

12. Sheikh Esa has just visited me in order to have a final conversation before my departure, and was evidently much relieved and grateful regarding the permission to Sheikh Hamed to come ashore. I find his attitude altogether changed, and it is now rather that of a naughty child coming repentant before his parents than that of a Ruler of some 70,000 souls, who two months ago spoke as arrogantly as if he were ready to defy the British Government to any extent. He said that he was now entirely submissive to Government, and that he and his children recognized that when it came to difficulties they had no one else to look to. I replied that I hoped he would give

proof of his assurances in the future, and would look upon his Political Agent as his best friend and adviser.

Before taking leave he presented me with the title-deeds of a plot of ground adjoining the Agency compound, which I had told him we needed as a site for quarters for the Infantry Guard, and had asked him to acquire from the owners for us, but had intimated, at the same time, that we were prepared to pay any reasonable price for it. In handing over the title-deed he said that he would prefer to make a free gift of it to Government, an offer which, subject to the approval of Government, I accepted with thanks. It is probably worth about 700 rupees.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Memorandum of Demands made by the Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf upon Sheikh Isa-bin-Ali, Chief of Bahrein, by order of the Government of India.

[See Part II, Inclosure 3 in No. 96.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 10.

Notification.

(Translation.)

TO all whom it may concern, be it known that "sukhra," or forced labour, is not applicable in any way whatever to the employés or coolies of merchants who are foreign subjects. Any person in authority who applies the custom to any such persons as those specified will be held responsible and will be severely punished.

(Signed and sealed)

ESA-BIN-ALI-BIN-KHALIFAH,

Chief of Bahrein.

Bahrein, 22nd Zilhijeh, 1322, A.H.

Inclosure 4 in No. 10.

Notification.

(Translation.)

To all whom it may concern:

WHEREAS Sheikh Ali-bid-Ahmed-bin-Khalifah has rebelled against the orders of myself, his uncle, Sheikh Esa-bin-Ali, Chief of Bahrein, and has set at nought the commands of the great British Government conveyed to him through the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and myself, and whereas he has absconded from Bahrein territory, it is accordingly proclaimed to all that the said Sheikh Ali-bin-Ahmed is hereby placed under ban of expulsion from Bahrein and will be treated as an outlaw.

I further give notice that to any person who shall arrest the said Sheikh Ali-bin-Ahmed and shall deliver his person to me or to any Political Officer of the British Government in the Persian Gulf, or to the Captain of a British man-of-war, I, Esa-bin-Ali-al-Khalifah, Chief of Bahrein, will pay him the sum of 10,000 rupees only.

Dated at Bahrein, this 24th day of Zilhijeh, 1322.

(Signed and sealed)

ESA-BIN-ALI-BIN-KHALIFAH,

Chief of Bahrein.

Inclosure 5 in No. 10.

Notification.

(Translation.)

To all whom it may concern:

BE it known that the ten persons whose names are mentioned below who have defied our orders and absconded from Bahrein, are hereby placed under ban of expulsion from my territory of Bahrein altogether, and any person delivering any of the

[1535]

said persons to me or to the British Representative in Bahrein, he will be entitled to a reward of 200 rupees only.

The names of the persons are as follows:—

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Hassan Baluch. | 6. Marzook-bin-Ismail. |
| 2. Mahomed Tahir. | 7. Saad Kahtani. |
| 3. Zaeed-bin-Saad. | 8. Almas. |
| 4. Zaeed-bin-Ferhan. | 9. Miyelli. |
| 5. Bakhit-el-Nubi. | 10. Baraitch-bin-Zaeed. |

Dated at Bahrein, this 24th day of Zilhijjah, 1322.

(Signed and sealed)

ESA-BIN-ALI-BIN-KHALIFAH,

Chief of Bahrein.

Inclosure 6 in No. 10.

Government of India to Major Cox.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Calcutta, March 21, 1905.

PLEASE refer to your letter dated the 4th March, 1905, regarding affairs at Bahrein.

The Government of India approve of the measures taken by you to carry out the terms of the ultimatum, and regard the result of them as being satisfactory on the whole.

No. 11.

Memorandum communicated by M. Cambon, May 5, 1905.

ARBITRAGE de Mascate.

Le Tribunal Arbitral ne se trouve pas encore officiellement constitué par suite du retard apporté à la désignation du Surarbitre, et il sera nécessaire d'accorder à celui-ci un certain délai pour qu'il puisse prendre connaissance des documents déjà présentés par les parties en cause.

Il ne semble donc pas possible que les dispositions de l'Acte du 13 Octobre, 1904, reçoivent leur application intégrale et que les conclusions des deux Gouvernements puissent être utilement déposées dès le 1^{er} Juin prochain.

Le Gouvernement Français estime qu'il y aurait avantage à laisser aux Arbitres le soin de fixer eux-mêmes la date de la remise des conclusions, étant entendu que, par la suite, la procédure arbitrale suivrait son cours telle qu'elle a été réglée entre les deux Gouvernements. Un échange de notes analogue à celui qui a eu lieu le 13 Janvier dernier pourrait constater l'accord des deux Gouvernements sur ce point, qui serait ensuite communiqué aux Arbitres par les soins du Bureau International de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage.

L'Ambassadeur de France serait très reconnaissant à Lord Lansdowne si celui-ci voulait bien lui faire connaître le plus tôt possible l'accueil fait à cette suggestion par le Gouvernement Britannique.

Ambassade de France à Londres,
le 5 Mai, 1905.

No. 12.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir H. Howard.

(No. 36.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 5, 1905.

I TRANSMIT herewith copies of correspondence as marked in the margin* relative to the Muscat arbitration.

You will observe that, in order to facilitate the course of the pleadings before the Tribunal at The Hague, His Majesty's Government and the Government of the French

* See Part II, Nos. 41, 63, and 145.

No. 10.^c

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, May 4, 1905.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran,* reporting his communications with the Persian Government in regard to British intervention on behalf of Koweit Arabs in Persia.

Sir A. Hardinge's description of the status of Koweit is, in Lord Lansdowne's opinion, a correct one, and his negotiations with the Persian Government seem likely to have a favourable result.

His Lordship would propose to inform Sir A. Hardinge that his action is approved, and to authorize him to use his discretion as to taking further steps in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

23

Republic have agreed that the English and French languages should be used concurrently in the proceedings.

I request that you will concert with your French colleague with a view to making a joint communication to this effect to the Tribunal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 18.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, May 6.)

(No. 15. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, April 14, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 25 of the 3rd April, I have the honour to report that on the 26th March I received information that a messenger from Khadra Wells, with letters from Ibn Reshid to his friends at Bussorah, had arrived here. It was said the messenger also brought a letter from the Mushir Feyzi Pasha, who appears to have been at Khadra when he left. Ibn Reshid's letter was to the effect that he had successfully raided certain tribes on the east border of Kassim, and that four battalions had arrived near Kassim from Medina.

From military information here, it would appear that the troops from Medina consisted of three battalions and a battery.

On the same date information was also received that Ibn Reshid's Agent at Bussorah, Hassan-el-Haji, had sent a telegram to Reshid Pasha, the Amir's confidential Agent at Yildiz, stating that the Amir had reported that he had punished the desert robbers who interrupted communications, and they had been brought under control. The telegram expressed the hope that matters would shortly be settled, in accordance with the Sultan's wishes, and stated further that Suleiman-ash-Shubeyli and other bad characters with him had arrived at Koweit from Kassim, in order to contrive mischief.

This message appears to be based on the letter from the Amir, referred to above.

On the 30th March, the same Hassan-el-Haji telegraphed to his Agent at Nejef, one Shellash, telling him to warn the Shamars and the caravans, as raiding (presumably by the Saoud faction, or Koweit Arabs) was going on in that direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 14.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 6.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, April 14, 1905.

FROM the 26th March to the 10th April the authorities here were in constant telegraphic communication with the Sandjaks of Amara and Montifik, with reference to the disturbed state of affairs in those districts.

The Mutessarif of Amara reported that Gadban, of the Beni Lam, was fighting with Seyhood, of the El Bu Mohammed, and Gadban himself telegraphed to the Vali, complaining of Seyhood's aggression. A Commission from Bussorah, at Amara, is supposed to be trying to pacify the Arabs. The Bimbashi of Gendarmerie at Amara reported that, in the intertribal fighting at Mejer Saghir, the El Bu Mohammed lost 120 killed and wounded, including Seyhood's nephew, Mutlak-el-Kaheyt, and his brother Khalifa. Seyhood had been defeated, and fled to Hashra, and the El Azerij were at Hashra in force.

On the 10th instant the Mutessarif of Amara confirmed the defeat of Seyhood, and said the loss on both sides was great. The El Azerij were then burning huts in Mejer Kebir, and the local Government offices were in danger. He pressed for troops from Bagdad, and said the mischief was spreading.

The Mutessarif of Montifik on the 30th ultimo anticipated that matters would come to a climax in a few days, and urged that a report to the Seraskeray would be untimely.

He suggested that the Vali should move the Sultan to send troops from Bagdad, Diwanieh, and Samawa; and stated that he continued to egg on the tribes

hostile to Sadun, to march against him and check his activity, having no other means of counteracting the evil influence of this treacherous individual.

On the 11th instant the Mutessarif sent the following telegram to the Vali:—

"Your idea of sending two battalions to Nasriye and the Erbil Redif battalion to Amara is excellent. I was taken in by Sadun, and am losing no time in breaking up his arrangements and showing him that I am not deceived. When these two battalions arrive I fully expect to smash him and make him obey Government orders. Mizel Pasha, who has arrived at Nasriye from Bussorah, is the most faithful of Sadun's kinsmen. If required, I shall keep him at Nasriye, and employ him in the Government interest."

On the 11th instant Sadun Pasha himself sent the following high-spirited message by telegraph to the Vali:—

"We have several times appealed to your Excellency with reference to our oppression by the Bedour, and asked you to expel them from our lands and stop the troops from attacking our tribes. There has been no result. We beg you in the name of justice to do what we previously asked. If you do not listen to us, we shall be obliged to expel them ourselves. Greetings. Sadun, the protected of God."

I learn that one battalion has been dispatched from Samawa and one from Nejef to Montifik, and that the Erbil Redif battalion has been sent from Bagdad to Amara.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 15.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 71.)

My Lord,

Rome, April 30, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 8th ultimo, in which I reported that I had, in accordance with instructions, submitted the request that the King of Italy should name an Umpire in the Muscat dhow arbitration, I have the honour to state that M. Fusinato, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, informed me yesterday, unofficially, that His Majesty had selected M. Lammasch, an Austrian Senator and Professor at Vienna, who has acquaintance with the English language, to fill the post of Umpire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 16.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 6, 1905.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of a telegram from the Turkish Officer commanding the Sixth Army Corps at Bagdad,* relating to recent events at Bahrein, which was left by the Turkish Ambassador at this Office on the 19th ultimo.

The telegram is a repetition in greater detail of the complaint which Musurus Pasha was instructed to make on the 22nd February, and which is recorded in Lord Lansdowne's despatch to Mr. Townley No. 59 of that date, forwarded to you on the 1st March.

In both cases it is alleged that punitive measures were taken in consequence of an assault on a European, whereas, according to the reports received from the Government of India, reparation for the maltreatment of the German subject, M. Bahnsen, was obtained by Major Cox in December last without the assistance of His Majesty's ships, and it was in connection with an attack upon Persian subjects that the naval demonstration of February last became necessary.

* See Part II, No. 135.

The present document contains other and more serious misstatements; the allegations that the Bahrein Customs were occupied by British officers and fishing dues levied are clearly entirely without foundation, and the account given of the proceedings against Sheikh Ali, when compared with the reports furnished by the Admiralty, appears to be incorrect in nearly every particular.

Musurus Pasha has again been instructed to press for an answer, and Lord Lansdowne would propose to reply that the report received by the Turkish Government from the Commander of the Sixth Army Corps at Bagdad is, in many material respects, incorrect and exaggerated, but that His Majesty's Government cannot discuss the details of the measures taken; that they can only repeat the statement made to his Excellency on the 22nd February last, and in Sir P. Currie's note to the Porte of the 12th August, 1895, that the island of Bahrein is under the protection of His Majesty's Government, and that they are entirely within their rights in taking any measures they may think fit to obtain redress for outrages there, or to protect the island from aggression; and, finally, that they must decline to take notice of any further complaints from the Porte on the subject.

Lord Lansdowne is not aware that there is any foundation for the statement in the last paragraph of Musurus Pasha's communication that the Sheikh now declares himself to be a Turkish subject, and he would be glad to learn whether any confirmation of this assertion has been received from the Government of India.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 17.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 292.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 2, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 200, Confidential, dated the 28th March last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Bussorah relative to a conversation which he held with the Vali respecting Koweit and Bahrein.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Acting Consul Monahan to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 11.)

Sir,

Bussorah, March 31, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 22 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that I had a conversation with the Vali on the 23rd instant. I asked him whether there was any news about Nejd affairs. He said he had no important news, and asked me whether I had heard anything. I said I had heard that Ibn Rashid was raiding tribes near Kasim. He said: "Are those tribes attached to Ibn Saoud?" I said I understood they were. The Vali would not pursue the subject. He said Abd-ur-Rahman, father of Ibn Saoud, had left Koweit. I said I supposed the Sheikh of Koweit was keeping clear of Nejd affairs. He said: "He is pretending to keep clear, but is secretly taking part." I said: "I suppose Koweit is to remain in the same position. I believe that this has been clearly understood at Constantinople." He said: "Of course if there has been such a decision (Karar) the *status quo* will be maintained, but the relations between the Vali of Bussorah and the Sheikh of Koweit cannot remain as they are" (literally "there must be a new account between them"). "It is a matter of common right and common justice that I should be able to get back criminals and deserters from Koweit. As it is the Persian authorities at Mohammerah attend to my requests, while the Sheikh of Koweit will not." I asked whether such cases of the Sheikh harbouring criminals or deserters had occurred lately. He said: "There have been small assault cases. But it is a question of the ordinary rights of men. Such cases should be impossible, Koweit being so near Bussorah." I gathered that the Vali had really no serious complaint to make of the Sheikh's conduct in this matter, but was rather talking because he felt that he should

say something. I was struck by the fact that he abstained from asserting or implying that the Sheikh was an Ottoman official, a Kaïmakam under the Vali of Bussorah. His immediate predecessor, Fakhri Pasha, in conversation with me clearly asserted this.

I mentioned outrages and piracies committed by Katif Arabs on natives of Bahrein about which I had already made representations in writing and orally. I said as clearly as I could: "The natives of Bahrein apply to me for assistance and protection." He replied that proper instructions had been sent to the new Mutessarif, who was a good man and would certainly attend to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 18.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 297.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 2, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 137 of the 28th ultimo, with its two inclosures, respecting the desire of the Indian Government to press for the withdrawal of the Turkish military station from Bubian Island, but, until I receive your Lordship's answer to my despatch No. 248, Confidential, of the 17th April, I shall not take any further steps in the sense now proposed by the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 19.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 300.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 2, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 213 of the 4th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship further paraphrases of telegrams which I have addressed to Mr. Fitzmaurice on the subject of the recent boundary negotiations at Aden.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Sir N. O'Connor to Mr. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 21, 1905.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 13, which I have caused to be repeated to the Foreign Office.

These negotiations have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and I congratulate you warmly on the ability and [sic] you have displayed and the success which you have attained.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Sir N. O'Connor to Mr. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 23, 1905.

FOLLOWING telegram received from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and it gives me much pleasure to forward it to you:—

"Please convey to Mr. Fitzmaurice my entire approval. I entirely share your views of his conduct of negotiations, and it was with great satisfaction that I received his report."

No. 20.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 305.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 3, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 283 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith a further despatch from Colonel Maunsell reporting that orders have been issued for the dispatch of thirty-two battalions to Hodeidah for service in the Yemen. Some portion of these troops have already reached their destination and others are on their way, but an Albanian brigade has practically refused to mobilize and the battalions sent from Prevesa are much short of their full complement.

As regards the progress of events in the Yemen, it appears that Menakha is still in a perilous condition and that the bad discipline of the troops gives rise to much anxiety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Constantinople, May 2, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that since the news arrived of the capture of Sanaa, orders have been given to hurry forward the transport of reinforcements to Hodeidah.

These amount to thirty-two battalions obtained as follows:—

1. Eight Nizam battalions from Yanina and the Western Greek Frontier.
2. Eight battalions of the Redif Brigade of Elbassan (Albania).
3. Eight battalions of the Redif Brigade of Rize (Black Sea Coast).
4. Eight battalions of the Redif Brigade of Isbarta (Asia Minor).

Of these, the eight Nizam battalions have already left Prevesa, two have actually reached Hodeidah, two are passing the Suez Canal, and the others are on their way thither.

The Rize Brigade is ready on the coast and awaits transports.

The Isbarta Brigade has been mobilized and is on its way to Smyrna where it will also await vessels to embark.

The Elbassan Brigade has practically refused to mobilize for service in Yemen, and as it is drawn from the mountainous part of Southern Albania it is not likely that the order can be enforced.

The Nizam Brigade left Prevesa only 4,000 strong, or an average of 500 men per battalion.

Ten batteries of mountain guns are ready packed in the arsenal here, together with a quantity of provisions and ammunition which have been collected, and these await transport to Hodeidah.

The Government Mahsusse Company, which should supply transports, has completely failed, owing to want of repair and general breakdown of its vessels.

Efforts are being hurriedly made at the Palace to obtain the necessary vessels from shipping agents here and even from Marseilles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Military Attaché.

No. 21.

Consul-General Gurney to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Marseilles, May 5, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that the two undermentioned French steamers have been chartered by the Ottoman Government to carry 2,500 troops each from Smyrna to Hodeida.

The steam-ship "Les Andes," 2,110 register tons, of the Société Générale des Transports Maritimes, left Marseilles last night for Smyrna; and the steam-ship "Bithynie," 2,060 register tons, of the Compagnie de Navigation Marocaine et Arménienne (MM. Paquet et Cie.), is expected to sail to-morrow for the same destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. C. GURNEY.

No. 22.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 276.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 8, 1905.*
THE French Ambassador told me to-day that the French Government were dissatisfied with Major Cox's attitude in reference to the impending arbitration as to the Muscat dhows. His Excellency had understood from me that, although His Majesty's Government were not to be precluded from watching over the Sultan's interests and bringing forward any evidence which seemed to us material from that point of view, we had agreed that the Sultan was not to be a Party to the arbitration, in the sense in which France and Great Britain were Parties. It appeared, however, that Major Cox had told the Sultan that he was to be a Party to the arbitration, and had suggested to him that he should be separately represented by Counsel.

As an illustration of the manner in which the Sultan was being influenced, his Excellency mentioned that the French Consul had communicated to the Sultan a list of dhows, corresponding with that which had been supplied to us, and the Sultan had returned the list to him.

I told his Excellency that I had no knowledge of the facts, but that it seemed to me that the statements made to him were probably exaggerated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 23.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 9.)

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of the 1st April, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter to the Admiralty, dated the 12th April, relative to the recent disturbances at Bahrein.

India Office, May 8, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 23.

India Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *India Office, April 12, 1905.*
WITH reference to Mr. Thomas' letter of the 1st April, forwarding the report of the Senior Naval Officer on the recent proceedings at Bahrein, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to request that you will express to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty his appreciation of the manner in which Captain Eustace and his officers and men carried out the duties entrusted to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

29

No. 24.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 11.)

Sir, *India Office, May 10, 1905.*
IN reply to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 4th instant, on the subject of Sir A. Hardinge's communication to the Persian Government regarding British intervention on behalf of Koweit Arabs in Persia, I am directed to say that Mr. Secretary Brodrick concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal to approve Sir A. Hardinge's action, and to authorize him to use his discretion as to taking further steps in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 25.

Sir H. Howard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 81.)

My Lord,

The Hague, May 11, 1905.
I HAVE the honour to report that I have this day communicated to M. Ruysenaers, for the information of the International Bureau, and for transmission to the Arbitrators and the Umpire in the Muscat Arbitration, the copies of the paper notifying a slight error in the British Counter-Case in that Arbitration, which were inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 38 of the 5th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

No. 26.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 12, 1905.*
I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of an *aide-mémoire* relative to the Muscat Arbitration left by the French Ambassador at this Office on the 5th instant.*

The French Government consider that, in view of the fact that the Arbitral Tribunal is not yet officially constituted owing to the delay in the appointment of the Umpire, it would be advisable to arrange for a slight postponement in the delivery of the Arguments, in order to allow the members of the Tribunal sufficient time to study the documents. It is accordingly suggested that the two Governments should leave it to the Arbitrators themselves to settle the date for the delivery of the Arguments, which is at present fixed for the 1st June.

It seems to Lord Lansdowne that it would be difficult for His Majesty's Government to decline to agree to this proposal. His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome reports, in a despatch dated the 30th April, a copy of which is inclosed,† that he has been informed "unofficially" of the selection by the King of Italy of M. Lammasch to act as Umpire, but no formal announcement has yet been made of this gentleman's nomination, and the time which will be at his disposal for studying the two Cases and two Counter-Cases would undoubtedly be inconveniently short, if the date for presentation of the Arguments and meeting of the Tribunal are maintained unaltered.

It must be borne in mind that in the Agreement between the two Governments of the 13th October, 1904, there is no provision which would admit of delaying the meeting of the Tribunal beyond a fortnight after the delivery of the Arguments.

The Attorney-General, with whom Lord Lansdowne has been in communication, concurs in the view that it will be better to accede to the suggestion of the French Government, and his Lordship proposes, if Mr. Brodrick agrees, to take that course.

He will instruct His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome to do what is possible to expedite the formal nomination of the Umpire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* No. 11.

† No. 15.

30

No. 27.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, May 13.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, April 22, 1905.

WITH reference to Mr. Monahan's telegram No. 19 of the 10th March last, I am informed that Mubarek has answered the Vali's letter of the 14th February to the effect that he is the obedient servant of the Ottoman Government, and that his appearance with Abdur Rahman at the interviews of the 8th and 13th February was to prove his submission, and not to put himself forward.

I have not yet been able to obtain a copy of the letter, but Abdul Hamid Effendi, the Sheikh's lawyer at Bussorah, tells me he presented it himself to the Vali, at the Sheikh's direction, and read it to him.

I hear that Abdul Aziz Bin Saud has taken eight of the Bessani family from Kassim to Riad, and holds them prisoners, as a sort of reprisal for the action of the Turks at Bussorah in removing three Nejd merchants to Constantinople.

A telegram from Abdur Rahman-el-Feyzul to Agah Pasha, of the Imperial Household at Constantinople, dated the 4th April, was dispatched from Fao on the 17th April. I have received a copy of it. After acknowledging the receipt of Agah Pasha's telegram, sent through Cassim Khederi of Bussorah, and explaining the reasons of the delay in answering it, the message runs:—

"I am the obedient servant of our Lord the Great Caliph: God preserve his throne till the day of judgment. I have repeatedly reported to the Imperial Throne by telegram from Fao and Bussorah about the presumption of Ibn Reshid—his interference in our country, and the acts of tyranny, bloodshed, and robbery which he continues to commit. Statements have also been presented by the people of Aneyza, Boreyda, and Shaggera. We have been honoured with no reply, and the evil deeds of Ibn Reshid, which neither God nor the Imperial Throne will sanction, increase, and all the people of Nejd and the tribes are disgusted at the violence of Ibn Reshid. I am continually writing on these matters to the Vali and have received no reply. In Zil Hijje an order came to me from the Vali of Bussorah to present myself. I came and showed my submission and my obedience. Therefore I beg of you that the favour of our Lord the Caliph may be extended to his servant as it is extended to all his servants."

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 28.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 13.)

Sir,

India Office, May 11, 1905.

IN reply to Mr. Villiers' letter of the 6th May regarding the action of the Turkish Ambassador at this Court with reference to recent events in Bahrein, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to say that he concurs in the answer which Lord Lansdowne proposes to return to Musurus Pasha's representation.

With regard to the statement that the Sheikh now declares himself to be a Turkish subject, I am to request that you will draw Lord Lansdowne's attention to Major Cox's report of the 4th March last, from the 12th paragraph of which it would appear that the attitude of the Sheikh is now entirely submissive to the British Government. Mr. Brodrick has, however, asked the Government of India by telegraph whether they have any confirmation of the statement, and the reply will be transmitted for Lord Lansdowne's information.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

31

No. 29.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 159.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 13, 1905.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I transmit to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran,* relative to the question of British intervention on behalf of Koweit Arabs in Persia.

Sir A. Hardinge's description of the relations of Turkey with Koweit in his conversation with the Mushir-ed-Dowleh appears to have been correct, and I consider that it may be safely and conveniently adopted in any discussions with the Turkish Government on Koweit affairs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 30.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 78.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 13, 1905.

I HAVE considered, in communication with the Secretary of State for India, your despatch No. 57 of the 16th March, reporting your conversation with the Mushir-ed-Dowleh regarding British intervention on behalf of Koweit Arabs in Persia.

The action which you have taken, as well as the language which you used to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh on this subject, is entirely approved by His Majesty's Government. You should use your discretion as to taking further steps in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 31.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 312.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 9, 1905.

THE dislocation of the Turkish army caused by the serious insurrection in the Yemen is fully treated in Colonel Maunsell's despatch, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy to your Lordship herewith.

About 50,000 men have been sent to or are under orders for the Yemen; the consequent drain upon the Asiatic and Syrian reserves dangerously weakens the military situation in Macedonia; and the unpopularity of military service in those parts is so great that the Government is seriously perplexed at the possible prospect of further demands for the same purpose. Military operations at this season of the year are invariably attended with heavy mortality, and the War Office seems to be quite unprepared to cope with the sanitary requirements of such an expedition. Apart from this, the difficulty of procuring at short notice sufficient transports to convey these troops to the seat of war is causing serious delay, but owing to the loans recently contracted, the Government is fortunately able to command more ready money than is usual, and I understand that very high prices are being offered for transports.

Some days ago the Sublime Porte approached me with respect to a report that they had heard that some British ships had been ordered to Hodeidah, and expressed the hope that no ships would be sent there as their presence would be indirectly an encouragement to the insurgents.

I said that I had not heard of any British ships having lately been ordered to those parts, but I would not give any assurance that a ship or two would not be sent if the safety of our Indian fellow subjects either in Jeddah or Hodeidah were endangered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

* See Part II, No. 140.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 22.)

Sir,

Constantinople, May 7, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that the gravity of the insurrection in the Yemen, together with the fall of the capital, necessitating the sending of large reinforcements, has raised the serious question as to how far it is possible to withdraw troops from European Turkey and Asia Minor without reducing the troops in Macedonia and Adrianople to such an extent that the Bulgarians might take advantage of the situation and threaten hostilities.

Many of the reserves for the European corps are now in Asia Minor, and withdrawal of men from there for the Yemen naturally reduces the numbers available for operations on the European side.

Some Turkish officers think it would be better to treat with the Imam or buy him off in some way, or even to lose the Yemen altogether sooner than send all the troops necessary to reconquer the country, and thus weaken themselves before Bulgaria.

But, on the other hand, the Palace has to consider the effect of the movement spreading northward towards the Moslem holy places, and the necessity of checking it at all costs before the Sultan's position as Caliph becomes seriously threatened.

From the manner in which reinforcements for the Yemen have been selected, it is evident that no serious danger is apprehended on the Russian Trans-Caucasus frontier, for 10,000 recruits have been withdrawn from this corps to fill up vacancies in Macedonia.

The Rize Brigade has also been withdrawn from this corps for service in the Yemen. From the Macedonian troops 6,000 have up to the present been withdrawn from Southern Albania and the Greek frontier districts, where they are least required, for the Yemen.

The Asiatic reserves have also been sensibly diminished, and more cannot well be withdrawn without endangering the situation seriously as regards Bulgaria.

The Constantinople corps has been reduced by 14,000 men by the withdrawal of the Angora Redifs, so that now 41,000 reserves are available to reinforce the capital in place of 55,000 as before.

At present, the Adrianople corps has in Europe 52,000 men under arms, and these might be increased to 85,000 by European Redifs, and to 120,000 if the Asiatic reserves were brought over.

This is making deduction for the Isparta Redif Brigade, and 5,000 recruits sent to the Yemen from the Asiatic districts.

As regards the Macedonian troops, after deducting those sent to the Yemen, there are now 74,000 men, which might be brought up to 174,000 by the addition of the European reserves, and to 194,000 by bringing over the Asiatic reserves.

The 5th (Syrian) Corps has proved itself so unreliable in the Yemen, and has lost so many men, that it cannot be depended on for reinforcements for Macedonia, although some 1st Class Redifs might be sent.

Placing the above in tabular form, we have:—

Designation.	1st Corps, Constantinople.		2nd Corps, Adrianople.		3rd Corps, Macedonia.	
	Europe.	Asia.	Europe.	Asia.	Europe.	Asia.
Nizam	34,000	..	52,000	..	74,000	..
Redifs, 1st Class and reorganized 2nd Class	..	40,000	33,000	35,000	100,000	20,000
	74,000		120,000		194,000	
	388,000					
Redifs, 2nd Class, not reorganized ..	..	72,000	..	65,000	..	30,000
	146,000		185,000		224,000	
Total strength available ..	555,000					

In this Table the 1st Class Redif and the reorganized 2nd Class have been placed in the same category, but these 2nd Class in European Turkey, who are the former *flavé*, have yet to prove their value in the field, although they have been improved in the last two years and have been given more officers.

Thus for all three European corps a total of 388,000 men is reached, who would be available for service in Europe, and of these, 95,000 have to be transported across from Asia Minor.

But, in addition, there remains in Asia Minor a large number of 2nd Class Redifs who have done little or no training, and are incomplete as regards higher organization and regimental officers. It is possible that they might be completed in their organization after the outbreak of hostilities, and be gradually sent over to Europe, but they could not be counted on for six weeks or two months; and long before that time, in fact, in a fortnight from the declaration of war, the Bulgarians would have mobilized their 300,000, and set them in motion towards Constantinople.

But on analysing further this table of troops, it is evident that the 74,000 men of the 1st Corps would be required for the garrison of Constantinople and the Chatalja lines, and must remain to defend the capital.

Of the 120,000 available in Adrianople they could be used against the Bulgarians advancing down the Maritza valley; but of these 35,000 have to come from Asia, and at least 20,000 would have to remain as garrison of Adrianople fortress. So that under the most favourable circumstances, 65,000 of these men would be at first available to defend the long frontier line and the railways, and undertake offensive movements into Bulgaria.

Of the total of 194,000 in Macedonia, at least 7,000 must remain as at present in the Scutari district with 10,000 men on the Greek frontier, and at least 20,000 men in Old Serbia and watching northern Albania, leaving 157,000 for actual employment in Macedonia.

From this number also, men have to be found to guard the railways, garrison the important centres, and deal with the numerous insurgent bands, who will certainly arise on the outbreak of hostilities.

Judging from the experiences of the partial insurrection of 1903, a large number of men may be wasted in pursuit of these insurgent bands.

The situation in northern Albania, where even now the tribes show signs of restlessness, and on the Servian frontier, may readily induce the employment of larger forces than those mentioned above; so that it would be difficult to find sufficient men for an offensive movement designed to force the difficult passes on the way to Sophia. The difficulty of finding transports for the Yemen has proved the insufficiency of the Government *Mahsussé* service in time of stress, and this has an important bearing on the question of bringing over Asiatic reserves to Europe in the event of a war with Bulgaria.

With such an active enemy as Bulgaria in the field, there would be no time to waste over engaging transport vessels, and conducting bargains at the Palace, such as is occurring now over the Yemen transports. For months past negotiations have been going on to reorganize the *Mahsussé* Company and buy new vessels, but nothing has been done.

It is interesting to summarize the number of troops who have, so to speak, disappeared towards the Yemen, or are about to do so.

Original garrison of Yemen, comprising the 7th Army Corps ..	20,000
Adana Redif Brigade, sent in November 1903 ..	6,000
First reinforcements from Syria, twenty-four battalions ..	17,000
Recruits from the Konia District ..	5,000
Second reinforcements now on their way after the fall of Sanaa ..	28,000
	76,000

It is impossible to say how many will live to return home after this disastrous campaign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché.

No. 32.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 317.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 9, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 305 of the 3rd May, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah, transmitting, with observations, a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consulate, Hodeidah, relative to the progress of the revolt in the Yemen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 39.)

Sir,

Jeddah, April 15, 1905.

IN forwarding Vice-Consul Richardson's despatch No. 38, Confidential, received on the 13th instant, I have the honour to remark that, judging from information just obtained here to the effect that troops (two or three battalions) are still being moved at a most recent date from Hodeidah to Mocha, to proceed thence inland, it is not certain that Sana was in extreme peril of surrender to the Imam and the rebel Arabs. Had such been the case, the troops in question would be marching from Hodeidah upon Menakha.

I may add that battalions lately arriving in Yemen have been of full complement, 800 or more; and also that there is reason to believe that the Turkish Government still adheres to their original plan of making Sana a strong military centre and radiating thence in all directions to control the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 38. Confidential.)

Sir,

Hodeidah, April 6, 1905.

NEWS was received here on the 31st ultimo that a Turkish force, under General Izzat Pasha, had succeeded, after severe fighting, in entering Sana a few days previously, with provisions for the beleaguered garrison.

Further, that later Riza Pasha, with 6,000 troops, entered the capital also, and in company with Izzat Pasha quitted the town the next day with their combined forces to secure their lines of communication and to punish the Arabs.

About three days ago the above information, though previously confirmed by the Hodeidah officials, turned out to be premature, and the news from the seat of operations was most dismal.

It would appear that two separate forces, under General Izzat Pasha and Marshal Riza Pasha respectively, were quite surrounded by the insurgents near Sana, or between the latter place and Metneh (Senam Pasha), and that the Turkish losses were considerable, and included that of two guns and a considerable quantity of provisions and military stores, which fell into the possession of the rebels.

I learn that two battalions of Syrian redifs, with Riza Pasha, have mutinied, throwing down their arms, and are returning to Hodeidah.

There is reason to believe that the various reinforcements from Syria are proving most unsatisfactory, and that the Adjoint Vali has telegraphed to the Imperial authorities for twenty-four battalions of Turkish and Albanian troops, and which it has since been decided to send to the Yemen from Constantinople, Preveza, and Trebizond.

Mahmoud Bey confirmed the rumour current here about a week ago that the Vali and the Military Commander at Sana had dispatched a "Mazbatta" to the Commander-in-chief, informing him that it was proposed to surrender the capital to the Imam, should relief not arrive within the space of three days.

The Adjoint Vali, I hear, has cabled to the Palace in the above sense.

Yesterday the authorities caused a report to be published locally that Marshal Riza Pasha had forced an entry into Sana with provisions on the evening of the 30th ultimo, but serious doubts are entertained generally of the authenticity of the above.

Other accounts state that after a severe fight with the insurgents, about 5 or 6 miles from Sana, who were in considerable force, the Ottoman troops were dispersed and all their supplies captured, and that eventually Riza Pasha managed to reach the besieged town with the remnants of his force, but without any provisions or munitions, or only a small quantity.

This, again, has been contradicted, and as far as I can ascertain it would appear that Riza Pasha and Izzat Pasha are still both surrounded near Sana.

The transport "Assyr" landed one battery of field artillery and one mountain battery.

The latter was dispatched to Taiz, via Mocha, last evening by the patrol ship "Cozlu."

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

No. 33.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 318.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 9, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, reporting on the progress of the reinforcement of the Turkish troops in the Yemen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Constantinople, May 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that an order has just been issued for the Angora Redif Division (sixteen battalions) to mobilize and hold itself in readiness to proceed to the Yemen.

These form part of the first (Constantinople) corps, and are the best fighting material in the Turkish army.

They are directed to embark at Smyrna to avoid passing through Constantinople, a proceeding to which the Sultan entertains a strong objection.

As mentioned in my last despatch, the Elbassan Redif Brigade refuses to mobilize for service in the Yemen; but four battalions have finally been collected at Durazzo, where they will be embarked when transports are available.

These represent but half the brigade, and number only 2,000 men, or 500 per battalion.

The total reinforcements, therefore, amount to forty-four battalions, as follows:—

Nizams of Yanina Brigade	..	..	..	8 battalions
(On its way to Hodeidah and part arrived)				
Angora Redif Division	..	..	..	16 ..
Isbart Redif Brigade	..	..	..	8 ..
Durazzo Detachment	..	..	..	4 ..
Rize Redif Brigade	..	..	..	8 ..
				44 battalions

These will form a total of 28,000 men, which, with the 5,000 recruits sent from Mersina, will make 33,000, as the complete strength of the new expeditionary force.

The men are to embark without arms, and are to receive the large-calibre Mauser rifle on arriving at Hodeidah, these to be sent from the arsenal here.

The Rize Brigade already possess this weapon, and will take it with them; but the others will have to move up country with a rifle of which they have no previous experience, and which has numerous defects.

Negotiations for engaging transports are in progress at the Palace, but so far only the "Nijni Novgorod" of the Russian Volunteer fleet and "Les Andes" of a French Company have been engaged. The former is to go to Durazzo and the Adriatic ports to fetch the detachment from there, but for the present the vessel is detained at Odessa owing to strikes. The French vessel is to go to Smyrna to take troops from there.

Mushir Ahmed Feizi Pasha, commanding the 6th (Bagdad) Corps, and until recently in command of the expeditionary force assisting Ibn Rashid in Kassim, is now on his way in all haste through Medina and Yambo to Hodeidah to take command of the troops in the Yemen.

He has had thirty years' experience of the Yemen, and has already suppressed a revolt there with great severity.

He is now over seventy years of age, but is said to be fairly energetic, and great things are expected of him.

It is estimated at the War Office that about 11,000 men surrendered with Riza Pasha at Sanaa, together with six batteries of artillery (twenty-four guns).

Riza Pasha and his Chief of the Staff, Izzet Pasha, had their lives spared, but are detained in Sanaa. Another Izzet Pasha in command of a brigade was killed in action.

The men were allowed to go free after surrendering their arms, and many Syrians joined the rebels. At present all interest centres in Menakha, where the Turks claim to have massed fifteen battalions, or about 7,000 men.

On arrival at Hodeidah, the Yanina Nizam Brigade has received orders to be ready to push forward at once to Menakha to reinforce the garrison.

But I understand the Palace base great hopes on being able to buy over some, if not all, the rebel Chiefs, and settle the matter in that manner.

Shakir Pasha, the head of the Yemen Mission, has, I am told, taken with him £T. 50,000 for that purpose. But it is very doubtful whether this method of quelling the rebellion will succeed, as the rebels are now flushed with success, and perhaps have higher ambitions than only the conquest of the Yemen, aiming even at the Caliphate itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL.

No. 34.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 77.)

My Lord,

Rome, May 10, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 55 of the 2nd May, I have to-day been officially informed that His Majesty the King of Italy, in conformity with the desire of the Governments of England and France, and in accordance with the dispositions of Article I of the Agreement signed in London on the 13th October, 1904, has designated as Umpire in the matter in dispute between England and France respecting the application of the Declaration of 1862 concerning Muscat Dr. Heinrich Lammasch, member of the Upper Chamber in the Austrian Parliament, and of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

This nomination has, by order of His Majesty, been officially notified to the Austro-Hungarian Government and to the Umpire himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 35.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 15.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick,

forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 27th ultimo, relative to the Muscat arbitration.

India Office, May 13, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Major Grey to the Government of India.

Muscat, April 3, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to refer to your telegram of the 30th ultimo in reply to mine of the 26th ultimo on the subject of the list of dhow-owners submitted to His Highness the Sultan by the French Vice-Consul in Muscat.

The Sultan declined to receive the list on account of the wording of the French Vice-Consul's letter, which appeared to him to suggest that the British Government had already agreed, on his behalf, to the individuals named being protégés of France. Had the letter merely stated that the list contained the names of persons whose exact status was under discussion, or words to that effect, His Highness would no doubt have accepted the list. As it was he returned it with the letter, of which a copy was sent to you by last mail.

You are already in possession of my views regarding the probable object of the wording to which objection was taken. The chances of obtaining a favourable judgment from The Hague Tribunal appear to me to rest largely upon the maintenance by the Sultan of his position of absolute unity with us in regard to the main question at issue.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No. 36.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 15.)

Sir,

India Office, May 15, 1905.

WITH reference to your letter of the 12th instant, on the subject of the Muscat Arbitration, I am directed to state that Mr. Secretary Brodrick concurs in the proposal of the Marquess of Lansdowne to accede to the suggestion of the French Government that, to meet the convenience of the Tribunal, it would be desirable to agree to a slight postponement of the delivery of the Arguments, and to leave it to the Arbitrators themselves to settle the date on which they should be delivered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 37.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to M. Cambon.

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, May 15, 1905.

WITH reference to the Memorandum left by you at this Office on the 5th instant, I have the honour to state that His Majesty's Government agree to the suggestion of the Government of the French Republic that, in view of the delay which has arisen in the appointment of an Umpire in the Muscat Arbitration, the date for the delivery of the arguments on behalf of the two Governments should be postponed from the 1st June to a date to be fixed by the Arbitrators themselves.

His Majesty's Government have to-day received a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, conveying an official announcement of the designation by His Majesty the King of Italy of Dr. Heinrich Lammasch to act as Umpire. They propose at once to notify the Permanent Bureau at The Hague of this appointment in order that the documents already presented may be forwarded to Dr. Lammasch with as little delay as possible.

[1535]

L

The decision of the two Governments relative to the postponement in the delivery of the arguments might then, as proposed by your Excellency, be embodied in a further supplementary Agreement similar to that of the 13th January, copies of which would, as before, be communicated to the Permanent Bureau.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 38.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 15, 1905.*
I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* recording a conversation on the 8th instant with the French Ambassador who stated that the French Government were dissatisfied with Major Cox' attitude in regard to the Muscat Arbitration.

I am to request that Lord Lansdowne may be favoured with Mr. Brodrick's observations on this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 39.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 323.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 11, 1905.*
I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna, reporting on the return of exiles from the Yemen to Rhodes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Smyrna, May 5, 1905.*
WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 13th January, 1900, on the subject of the arrival at Rhodes of political prisoners from the Yemen, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Biliotti now reports the arrival at Rhodes, on the 28th ultimo, of the Ottoman despatch boat "Fuad" with Chakir Pasha, ex-Vali of Uskub, who is proceeding to the Yemen at the head of a special mission.

Abedine Pasha, who had left for Scio, returned to Rhodes with Chakir Pasha by orders from Constantinople.

All the exiled Yemenis on the island were collected together and, out of 70, 38 volunteered to do their utmost and use their influence on arrival in their native country to assist the officials in carrying out the Government's plans. These 38 men were, therefore, embarked on board the "Fuad," which left on the 29th ultimo for the Red Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

* No. 22.

No. 40.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 326.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 12, 1905.*
I HAVE to-day received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah a telegram dated the 8th May, stating that (telegram No. 28)—

"Letter from the Mushir to Vali and telegram from Commandant of Medina contingent to the Palace state that the troops entered Boreyda on the 2nd and Aneyza on the 5th April (o.s.) without resistance. They were well received by the inhabitants, who submitted with good grace. Turkish flag was hoisted, salute fired, and prayers read for the Sultan. Administrative posts have been established in both towns."

In a later telegram, No. 29 of the 10th May, Mr. Crow reports:—

"Telegram from Mushir and telegram from newly appointed Kaimakam of Boreyda and the Mudir of Aneyza to the Palace confirm report of the peaceful occupation of Kassim. Mushir has telegraphed to Colonel Commanding at Waksia to return to Nedjef with his troops, as affairs are settled. Telegram from the new administrative officials thanks the Sultan for the blessings of good government conferred on them by the Mushir."

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 41.

Sir H. Howard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *The Hague, May 15, 1905.*
WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 36 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of the joint note which my French colleague and I addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Bureau on the 13th instant, notifying the Agreement come to between His Majesty's Government and the Government of France that the English and French languages may be used concurrently in the proceedings of the Tribunal in the Muscat Arbitration, as also a copy of M. de Ruyssenaers' reply, acknowledging the receipt of our communications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Joint Note addressed to International Bureau by British and French Ambassadors.

M. le Secrétaire-Général, *La Haye, le 13 Mai, 1905.*
LES Gouvernements de France et de Grande-Bretagne, d'un commun accord et pour des raisons spéciales, ont décidé de permettre l'emploi des langues Française et Anglaise concurremment au cours des débats de l'Arbitrage Mascatais.
Les Soussignés vous prient en conséquence de porter cette décision à la connaissance des Membres du Tribunal.

Le Ministre de Grande-Bretagne,
(Signé) HENRY HOWARD.
Le Ministre de France,
(Signé) DE MONBEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

M. de Ruyssenaers to British and French Ambassadors.

M. le Ministre, *La Haye, le 15 Mai, 1905.*
PAR sa note du 13 courant, votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire part que les Gouvernements de Grande-Bretagne et de France, d'un commun accord et pour des

raisons spéciales, ont décidé de permettre l'emploi des langues Anglaise et Française concurremment au cours des débats de l'Arbitrage Mascatais.

En vous accusant réception de cette décision, que je m'empresserai de porter à la connaissance des Membres du Tribunal, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) L. H. RUYSSENAERS,
Envoyé Extraordinaire, &c.

No. 42.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 11th May, relative to the report that the Sheikh of Bahrein has declared himself a Turkish subject.

India Office, May 17, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 11, 1905.

BAHREIN. Have you any confirmation of report that Sheikh Esa of Bahrein has declared himself a Turkish subject in consequence of recent events? Statement to this effect has been made here by Turkish Ambassador on authority of Commander of troops at Bagdad.

No. 43

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 16th May, relative to the situation in Yemen.

India Office, May 17, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 16, 1905.

RESIDENT at Aden telegraphs on the 12th instant as follows:—

"In a letter received from Political Officer at Dthali, it is stated that the Kaimakam of Kataba is proceeding to Aden, having resigned his office as he anticipated removal. Kaimakam has informed Political Officer that on the 20th ultimo a compromise was entered into between the Governor of Sanaa and the Imam, by which it was agreed that each side should retain possession of the districts actually held by them on that date. This arrangement still awaits ratification by the Porte, but it seems impossible that it should be ratified. The Turks are still in possession of Ibb."

(Repeated to Bombay.)

No. 44.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 162.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 17, 1905.

THE Turkish Ambassador, in reference to my statement made to him on the 3rd instant that the Turkish Government was in the habit of putting forward frivolous complaints against the British Government, told me to-day that the Turkish Government would probably reply that in the case of some at all events of these complaints the British Government had not returned any answer. His Excellency cited his communication of the 18th January as to Koweit, of the 8th March as to the occupation of Menawa, in the neighbourhood of Bahrein, of the 8th April upon the same subject, and of the 3rd instant in regard to Koweit.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 45.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 19.)

IN continuation of Sir A. Godley's letter of the 3rd May, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 20th April, relative to the intended visit of the French Vice-Consul at Muscat to Sur.

India Office, May 17, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Major Grey to the Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Muscat, April 3, 1905

I HAVE the honour to refer to your telegram dated the 27th ultimo, and in so doing would invite a perusal of my letter dated the 14th January, 1905.

2. The exact course taken by me in regard to the French Vice-Consul's proposed journey is not described in my letter with sufficient clearness, and a slight misunderstanding has been the result. I did not move the Sultan to refuse facilities for the journey, which he had not, so far as I know, been asked to provide; and which, in his own interests, it would not have been advisable for him to refuse in the present phase of the French flag question. All I did was to point out to him the dangers likely to result from the French Vice-Consul's visit to that particular part of the country, and to suggest that he should recommend my colleague not to travel in that direction at present owing to the unsettled condition of the tribes, and the increase of anti-European feeling occasioned by recent events connected with Masurah Island.

3. The French Vice-Consul now talks of paying his usual yearly visit to Sur in May, and the effect of this visit will doubtless be to strengthen the opposition of certain members of the Sur community to His Highness the Sultan's jurisdiction, and to increase the number of malcontents.

4. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. G. GREY.

No. 46.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 321.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 19, 1905.

I SIGNED with the French Ambassador to-day an Agreement, of which a copy is inclosed,* supplementary to those already signed on the 13th October, 1904, and the 13th January last, in regard to the Muscat Arbitration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 47.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Musurus Pasha.

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, May 20, 1905.

I REFERRED to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India the telegram from the Commander of the 6th Army Corps at Bagdad, relative to recent events at Bahrein, communicated by you on the 19th ultimo.

I have ascertained that the statements contained in this telegram are in many material respects incorrect and exaggerated. His Majesty's Government cannot, however, enter into discussion of the measures taken on the occasion to which your Excellency referred, and I must repeat the statement made in Sir P. Currie's note to the Sublime Porte of the 12th August, 1895, and in conversation with your Secretary on the 22nd February last, that, the Island of Bahrein being under British protection, His Majesty's Government are entirely within their rights in taking any measures they may think fit to obtain redress for outrages there or to protect the island from aggression.

His Majesty's Government must therefore decline to entertain any further representations from the Turkish Government on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 48.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 332.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 12, 1905.

IN the course of conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 1st instant, I communicated to his Excellency the views of the Indian Government as to the steps to be taken by the military authorities of Aden in case the insurgent Arabs in the Yemen should cross the boundary into the nine cantons, as explained in your Lordship's telegram No. 25 of the 14th March, and yesterday his Excellency informed Mr. Lamb that the arrival of a British force in the Amiri had been reported by the Kaimakam of Kataba. Tewfik Pasha added that in a subsequent conversation the Kaimakam had informed him that official notification of the advent of this force, which numbered 600 or 700 men, had been given by the British Political Officer at Dthali, who had explained that it had been sent in view of the possibility of the insurgents advancing on Kataba, to preserve order on the border, and to prevent the revolted tribes from crossing it.

Tewfik Pasha said that he wished to express the thanks of his Government for the attitude of the British authorities in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

* Agreement, May 19, 1905.

No. 49.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 339.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the departure of Turkish officers to constitute a court-martial in the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 24.)

Sir,

Damascus, May 3, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday, the 2nd instant, Lieutenant-General Kyamil Pasha, Commanding the Redifs of this Ordu, accompanied by Major-General Ali Mansour Pasha, coming from Aleppo, and Colonels Shem'i Bey and Khalid Bey, at present stationed here, left Damascus for Beyrout en route for the Yemen where, I am informed, they are to constitute a court-martial, of which the first-named officer is to be the President.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 50

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 341.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, reporting that a regiment, forming part of the Nejd Expedition, had been sent back to Nejef.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Consul-General Newmarch to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 265/31.)

Sir,

Bagdad, April 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Excellency's information, the following extract from my diary to the Government of India of to-day's date:—

"I received the following information on the 14th April, 1904:—

"It is said that Faizi Pasha has sent back another regiment to Nejef, as he thinks he has more troops than are necessary for the expedition.

"He also sent to Nejef a detachment of twelve men under a lieutenant to replenish his treasure chest. Kavass Muhammad Dervish's brother, the sergeant, was one of the detachment. On nearing Nejef the sergeant's camel went lame, and he was unable to keep up with the others. About an hour's distance from Nejef he was attacked by several Arabs, severely wounded, and stripped of all he had. He is at present in the military hospital at Bagdad and is doing well.

"The sergeant says that there has been a heavy mortality among the camels of the force, over 750 having died on the way from Nejef to Leena.

"About five days ago 200 camel-loads of flour and rusks were sent to Faizi Pasha from Bagdad.

"Haji Abdul,* the muleteer, says that zaptiehs are still out in the districts commandeering camels, and that although his camels, which were detained at Khanakin, were released at my intervention, he is afraid that further attempts to impress them may still be made.

"NOTE.—I think I shall be able to prevent any further attempts to commandeer his camels."

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. NEWMARCH, Major.

No. 51.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 343.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 16, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, reporting on the mobilization of the Kharput Redif Brigade for the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 24.)

Sir,

Constantinople, May 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Kharput Redif Brigade, belonging to the IVth Ordu, has received orders to mobilize and proceed to the Yemen, marching down to Alexandretta, and embarking there for Hodeida.

This represents a force of eight battalions or 7,000 men, practically all of Kurdish race, and implies the withdrawal of this number of men from the corps watching the Russian frontier, and which was partly employed last year in suppressing the Armenian troubles.

Of the other reinforcements ordered to the Yemen only the eight Nizam battalions, or 4,000 men, from Yanina, has arrived at Hodeida. These troops have marched up country and entered Menakha, thereby assuring the possession of that stronghold and replacing the mutinous Syrian troops who previously held it. This certainly improves the situation for the Turks, and their present intention is to remain on the defensive until all the reinforcements arrive.

The climate of Menakha, situated about 7,000 feet above the sea, is very fairly good, even in summer. The column based on Mokha, operating from Taiz, still holds the latter place, and is, as the War Minister informs me, specially designed to prevent troubles on the frontier of the nine Cantons of the Aden Protectorate. It consists of some 2,000 men, under the command of Brigadier-General Riza Pasha.

The Imam's force remains quiescent, and shows no tendency to advance, which, judging from previous campaigns in Yemen, is the line of action they may be expected to take.

After the effort made, which culminated in the taking of Sanna, it is most probable that many men have gone off to collect plunder, and for this and other reasons there seems to be a period of quiescence after the victory.

Thus there seems no immediate danger of a movement towards Hodeida, although there have been persistent rumours last week that the place was attacked; this is probably by local tribes, who are also disaffected.

At the same time, the remaining reinforcements are a long way off, although the two hired transports "Les Andes" and "Bithynie" have been sent to Smyrna to embark the Isbart Redifs brought down there by train.

* A British subject.

The "Nijni Novgorod" has left for the Adriatic coast to take Redifs from Durazzo; but the Rize men from the Black Sea coast have not yet begun to move.

It will, however, be at least another fortnight before any other reinforcements can reach Hodeida.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché.

No. 52.

Mr. Johnstone to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 112.)

My Lord,

Vienna, May 17, 1905.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 58 of the 15th instant, respecting the nomination by the King of Italy of Dr. Lammasch to act as Umpire in the Muscat Arbitration Commission, I inquired of the French Ambassador whether he had heard anything of the appointment.

His Excellency said that he had no information on the subject, and I then told him I proposed to make inquiries at the "Ballplatz," and would let him know the result.

At the Ministry Herr von Müller informed me that the Italian Ambassador had a few days before made unofficial inquiries if the Austro-Hungarian Government would object to Dr. Lammasch's nomination, and had been answered in the negative. On the 14th they had received an official note from his Excellency stating that the King of Italy proposed to appoint Dr. Lammasch, which they considered did not require an answer in view of what had been done unofficially, and closed the incident as far as they were concerned.

Herr von Müller added that Dr. Lammasch, who is a Life Member of the Upper House, was a very distinguished man, an authority on international law, and had been one of the Austrian Delegates to The Hague Peace Conference. He speaks both French and English fluently.

I then called on the Italian Ambassador, who explained to me that Dr. Lammasch had unofficially accepted the post of Umpire, but had not yet notified his consent in writing. His Excellency said he expected an official answer from Count Goluchowski to his notification of Dr. Lammasch's appointment, and seemed surprised when I told him I understood the Ministry did not think it required an answer.

These details of routine, to which the Duke of Avarna attaches some importance, have probably delayed the official notification of Dr. Lammasch's appointment.

I subsequently informed the French Ambassador of what I had learnt at the "Ballplatz" and from his Italian colleague, and M. de Reverseaux told me he should write on the subject to M. Delcassé to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALAN JOHNSTONE.

No. 53.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 22, 1905.

WITH reference to my letter of the 19th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copies of despatches from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the Turkish military post on Bubian Island.*

Sir N. O'Connor expresses his apprehension (*vide* 4th paragraph of his despatch No. 248 of the 17th ultimo) that the Turkish Government might propose a "bargain" by which, in return for the evacuation of Bubian Island by the Turkish soldiers, His Majesty's Government would consent to withdraw their Agent permanently from Kuwait. Upon this point I am to observe that, should the proposal be made, it ought, in Lord Lansdowne's opinion, certainly not to be accepted. He adheres to the opinion conveyed in my letter of the 16th December, 1904, that these questions must be kept

* See Part II, No. 141; and *ante*, No. 18.

separate and distinct in any discussions with the Turkish Government, and that His Majesty's Government must reserve absolutely the right to dispatch an Agent from time to time to Koweit.

With a view, however, to obviating the eventuality which his Excellency fears, it might be desirable that any further representation to the Porte should be postponed until Major Knox has been temporarily withdrawn from Koweit, which will, it is understood, be almost immediately.

Lord Lansdowne would propose that Sir N. O'Connor should then again approach the Turkish Government and ask whether the soldiers have been withdrawn from Bubian Island. Should the answer prove unsatisfactory, Major Knox might be sent back to Koweit, and might subsequently arrange for the establishment of a post on the island by the Sheikh. It would be a matter for consideration at what stage Sir N. O'Connor should announce to the Porte the intentions of His Majesty's Government in this respect, and this might, perhaps, be left to His Excellency's discretion.

I am to add, however, that his Lordship would wish to have more definite information as to the nature of the support which it would be necessary to afford the Sheikh for the establishment of the post in question. It will be seen that Sir N. O'Connor anticipates considerable difficulty in inducing the Sheikh to take this step.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 54.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd May, relative to the report that the Sheikh of Bahrein had declared himself a Turkish subject.

India Office, May 23, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 22, 1905.

BAHREIN. Resident in Persian Gulf telegraphs on the 17th instant, with reference to yours of the 11th instant, as follows:—

"Reports received from Prideaux do not afford the least reason for supposing that there is any truth in the statement as to Sheikh Esa having declared himself Turkish subject. Probably it has been invented as a development of Talib Bey's suggestion in his report on Arabia, paragraph 18, which will be found in the file of papers relating to Nejd. (See inclosure to the despatch from Sir N. O'Connor to Lord Lansdowne, No. 684, Very Confidential, dated the 26th August, 1904.)

"I am asking Prideaux to make confidential inquiries on the point and to report the result. I do not think it would be wise to ask the Sheikh himself what truth there is in the statement, and so to put ideas into his head."

No. 55.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 20th ultimo, relative to the affairs of Nejd.

India Office, May 23, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55:

Major Cox to Government of India.

Bushire, March 12, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of a letter and inclosure received from the Political Agent, Koweit, in which he reports Sheikh Mubarak's version of the recent interviews between Ibn Saood and the Wali of Bussorah.

I append at the same time purport of a letter which I addressed to Sheikh Mubarak in this connection on the 7th instant.

2. I thought it as well to include in my letter a brief incidental reference to Bahrein affairs.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Captain Knox to Major Cox.

Koweit, February 28, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the notes taken by me at an interview with Sheikh Mubarak on the morning of the 28th February, at which the Sheikh informed me of what took place at the recent meeting at Sefwan.

2. I venture to suggest, for your consideration, whether some reassuring communication might not be addressed to the Sheikh approving the correct attitude taken up by him—according to his own statement—on this occasion. This would, I think, be appreciated.

Inclosure 3 in No. 55.

Notes of Interview with Sheikh Mubarak on February 28, at which he informed me of what took place at the recent interviews between his Excellency the Wali of Bussorah and Sheikh Mubarak-es-Subah and Sheikh Abdur Rahman-bin-Feysal-bin-Saood at Sefwan.

1. Preliminary.

SHEIKH MUBARAK began by saying that the work was not at all to his taste, and that the weather had been very cold and there was no food for the horses, and that generally he had come back dissatisfied.

2. First Meeting.

The first meeting took place on the 6th February.

3. Interview with Sheikh Mubarak.

It appears that his Excellency the Wali of Bussorah first saw Sheikh Mubarak, and the Sheikh told him that he had come as requested and had brought Abdur Rahman-bin-Feysal-bin-Saood. He added that he had no concern with the affairs of Nejd, and must now leave his Excellency to settle matters with Bin Saood.

4. Interview with Bin Saood.

Bin Saood was then summoned and presented his case. He said that he and his friends had petitioned the Ottoman Government against Bin Rashid and his tyranny, but no answer was returned to their petitions.

Then they took the law into their own hands and had crushed Bin Rashid.

The result was that Bin Rashid returned with soldiers and intercepted all the messengers Bin Saood was sending to the Sultan, and Abdur Rahman-bin-Saood could get no redress.

They then fought with Bin Rashid and the soldiers.

He then went on to say: "When your Excellency sent for me I came at your orders. I will not have Bin Rashid interfering in Nejd affairs, and will fight him if he comes with soldiers. I will not resist the Turkish Government provided Bin Rashid is kept away from me and my people. You have, however, no right and no interest in our countries, and our people hate the soldiers."

6. *The Wali leaves.*

His Excellency then went off, saying that he must communicate with Constantinople.

7. *Second Interview.*

On the night of the 14th February his Excellency returned, with a telegram from Constantinople, to Gishaniya, a few miles on the Koweit side of Sefwan, where the two Sheikhs were encamped.

8. *Terms of Settlement.*

(a.) The first point in the telegram was that Bin Rashid was to have nothing to do with Nejd affairs.

(b.) The second point: the Turkish Government will seize El Kasim [sic]. If this was really the wording of the telegram it is rather curious reading. To this Bin Saood made no objection.

(c.) The third point: Sheikh Mubarak must be a party to the agreement.

9. *Sheikh Mubarak's Opinion.*

To the third condition Sheikh Mubarak flatly refused to consent. He told his Excellency that the people of Nejd were a seditious, turbulent lot; that he did not stop them having trade relations with his town of Koweit, but that he kept only one man at El Kasim. He pointed out how the newspapers had been busy with his name, saying that he had been sending English guns, money, and provisions to Nejd, which was utterly untrue and that he refused to have anything to do with Nejd politics.

As soon as the conference was over he would go to Hageyja and Abdur Rahman to Jabra, and thence to his own place. Their ways lay apart. Abdur Rahman was his friend and Bin Rashid his enemy, and he hoped with all his heart that Abdur Rahman would get the better of Bin Rashid.

That, as regards the Agreement, he hoped that matters would go well, but that if they did not his Excellency must settle the question with Bin Saood. Sheikh Mubarak would have nothing to do with it and was not in any way responsible.

10. *British Protection.*

The question of British protection was discussed, and Sheikh Mubarak was asked by his Excellency to state what his desires were and his Excellency would satisfy them—all of them.

Sheikh Mubarak replied that he wanted nothing, and, as regards abandoning the British—

"If you were to give me all Bussorah I would not do it. The relations between us, especially of trade and friendship, are of long standing, and what you ask is impossible. Nothing new has taken place. You have never had any authority in my town and I have committed no breach of friendship against your Government. I have come here and brought Bin Saood, at your request and at great expense to myself. This alone is proof of my friendly feelings towards you. All my affairs and my vessels are protected by the English. If I ventured on the course of action you propose my subjects would not support me, and would leave me for the English."

11. *Bash-Katib.*

The Wali then asked him if he had not written to the Bash-Katib at Constantinople, and Sheikh Mubarak denied having done so.

[N.B.—I do not understand this last remark. Possibly Bussorah or Constantinople can explain.—S. G. K.]

12. *General Remarks and subsequent Conversation with the Sheikh.*

All the above was said slowly and steadily, and was evidently the impression which Sheikh Mubarak wished to convey to the British Government of what had taken place at Sefwan. It had been, I should say, carefully studied and rehearsed.

Turkish Soldiers in Nejd.

I asked Sheikh Mubarak what was going to be done about soldiers. He said that men were to be posted in Anezya and Boreyda, but not at Riyadh. Abdur Rahman would not allow that. He also said that the Mushir at Bagdad was under orders to proceed and settle the administration, but that he refused to go, pleading sickness. I have heard this from another source.

R.I.M.S. "Investigator."

I mentioned that the "Investigator" was expected shortly to complete the work she had begun. The Sheikh made no objection, but said that the Wali had attacked him on this point also, when he explained that the "Investigator" was merely concerned with collecting information about the harbour and insuring the safety of vessels, a laudable occupation to which no one could reasonably take exception.

M. Goguyer's Rifles.

I then said that I had already some days back informed Sheikh Jabir-bin-Mubarak that M. Goguyer had sent a boom full of rifles to Koweit from Muscat. The Sheikh said that such a thing was quite impossible; that he had turned Goguyer out of Koweit, and he had since been writing scurrilous articles to the newspapers about him; and that if such a thing came to his knowledge he would promptly confiscate the entire cargo.

I thanked the Sheikh for all the information he had given me, and expressed my pleasure at his return to Koweit. The Sheikh at once took up the same tune, and was unusually profuse in professions of friendship and attachment.

He told me that travelling in the desert would be delightful in a few days' time; that he was going out hawking to Sirra and beyond, and hoped that I would accompany him.

I mention these latter trifles as I consider them important indications of the Sheikh's attitude at the present juncture. Mubarak is not gushing as a rule, and I think that he is distinctly nervous as to the view the British may take of his Sefwan policy.

Inclosure 4 in No. 55.

Major Cox to Sheikh Mubarak-es-Subah.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

March 7, 1905.

BE it known to you that your friend has just returned to Bushire after some days' absence at Bahrein, and I am very pleased to learn on my arrival from Captain Knox' letters, news regarding the meetings at Sefwan, and as to the correct attitude which you appear to have adopted in remaining an impartial onlooker, and in abstaining from involving yourself with the affairs of Ibn Saood and the politics of Nejd.

[1535]

O

You are a wise man, and your sight is long.

I shall not omit to inform Government, and doubt not that they will receive with approval and gratification the news that you have been guided by their advice in this matter.

With regard to Bahrein you will perhaps have heard of my going there.

Two months ago I found that there was disorder in Manama and no security for subjects, and this was due to Sheikh Esa's Government being slack, and perhaps also to the promptings of bad advisers, and this could not properly be allowed to continue.

Now, thank God, Sheikh Esa has come to realize that Government only wish prosperity to his State and security for all, and that his interests are bound up in preserving concord with the Sarkar.

If it interests you, Captain Knox will tell you further details of recent events there, and I hope from your wisdom and friendliness that when corresponding with Sheikh Esa, you will give him profitable advice.

Inclosure 5 in No. 55.

Captain Trevor to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire, March 26, 1905.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 12th March, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of Sheikh Mubarak's reply to the letter which I addressed to him on the subject of the meeting at Sefwan.

Inclosure 6 in No. 55.

Sheikh Mubarak-es-Subah to Major Cox.

8 Muharrum, 1323 (March 15, 1905).

I HAVE received your letter dated the 30th Zilhyjah, 1322, stating that after returning from Bahrein, you had perused the communications made by Captain Knox regarding the Mejlis convened at Sefwan.

I always represent to Captain Knox whatever takes place with us. As to myself, I do not wish, and will not, interfere with Nejd affairs at all, because I understood from the beginning that they were injurious in the end, and because interested persons like Ibn Rashid and Yusif-el-Brahim were concerned in them.

Furthermore, this affair has no connection with me, and my object is only the safety of our territories and prosperity of our trade.

Inshallah, by the kind attentions of the High Government we will remain at ease and continue our friendly relations, and fulfil our obligations.

No. 56.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 25.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Secret despatch to the Government of India, dated the 19th May, relative to the question of hoisting the British flag at Cape Musandim.

Copies have been sent to the Admiralty and the Defence Committee.

India Office, May 24, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

India Office, May 19, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 30th December last, I have to inform your Excellency that the question of hoisting the British flag at Cape Musandim has been fully considered in all its bearings by His Majesty's Government.

2. The object which the Government of India desire to attain, as stated in their Secret letters in the Foreign Department of the 23rd October, 1902, and the 21st January, 1904, is to prevent any foreign Power establishing a commanding position at the entrance of the Persian Gulf. His Majesty's Government are in entire agreement with your Excellency as to the necessity of preventing any such action on the part of a foreign Power, the first result of which would be to entail an increase of naval expenditure and a rearrangement of our naval dispositions. It only remains, therefore, to consider the best means of securing this object.

3. The method which the Government of India have desired to adopt, viz., to hoist the British flag at certain points in the immediate vicinity of Cape Musandim, is open to the objection that it would not confer upon us any special rights in the places selected, unless it were accompanied by a specific proclamation of protectorate or annexation. On the other hand, an open assertion of our claims to these places might excite the jealousy of other Powers, and give rise to political complications.

4. The alternative method would be to make it clear that His Majesty's Government would not tolerate the occupation by any foreign Power of any port or territory in the Persian Gulf. It will be within your Excellency's recollection that on the 5th May, 1903, Lord Lansdowne stated in the House of Lords that "we should regard the establishment of a naval base or of a fortified port in the Persian Gulf by any other Power as a very great menace to British interests, and we should certainly resist it with all the means at our disposal." To this declaration His Majesty's Government adhere, and it is their intention to rely upon it for the protection of their interests.

5. These considerations have led His Majesty's Government, as I stated in my telegram of the 31st March last, to modify the orders contained in my telegram of the 4th August, 1904. They arrived at the conclusion that the flagstaffs on Sheep Island and the isthmus between Malcolm and Elphinstone Inlets should be abandoned, and that it would be sufficient for the purposes of the policy laid down in the preceding paragraph to maintain the flagstaff upon Telegraph Island as a sign of the continuance of our occupation of that spot which first took place in connection with the operations of the Eastern Telegraph Company in 1869.

6. The opinion of His Majesty's Government with regard to the flagstaff on Telegraph Island was based on the conclusion formulated in the Secret letter from your Excellency's Government, of the 23rd October, 1902, that the jurisdiction of the Sultan of Muscat over the Makhlab Isthmus and Musandim Promontory was of so uncertain and ineffective a character that it would be open to His Majesty's Government to ignore it.

7. The position has, however, been materially altered by Mr. Lorimer's inquiries, the result of which is reported in his note of the 22nd March last; and I gather from your Excellency's telegrams of the 27th March and 15th April last that the Government of India are no longer prepared to ignore the fact of the Sultan's sovereignty over Musandim.

8. In the changed circumstances, having regard to the considerations stated above (paragraph 3), and in view of the grounds upon which Her late Majesty's Government protested to the French Government against the cession to them by the Sultan of Bunder Gisseh in 1898, I request that your Excellency's Government will again take into your consideration the question of the maintenance of the flagstaff on Telegraph Island, in the light of the further information now in your possession, and inform me of your views. In the meantime nothing should be done in anticipation of the final decision of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

No. 57.

Director of Military Operations to Foreign Office.—(Received May 25.)

THE Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and forwards for his information a Memorandum on the state of affairs in Arabia, in view of the present disturbed state of some of the Turkish provinces.

Winchester House, St. James's Square,
London, May 24, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Memorandum respecting the State of Affairs in Arabia.

THE revolt in Southern Arabia against the Sultan of Turkey seems to be reaching an acute stage, and may prove to be an event of more than local importance.

2. Of the three Red Sea coast provinces of Turkey—Hejaz, Asir, and Yemen—Hejaz, the northern province, is the most important, for it contains the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. Asir, the central, is a wild and inhospitable region, and is largely peopled by Arab tribes of the Shia sect of Mahomedans who do not acknowledge the Sultan as Kaliph. Yemen, a comparatively fertile country with a fairly good climate but largely peopled also by Shia Arabs, was first occupied by the Turks in the sixteenth century. Later on it was governed by a succession of Imams, semi-priest rulers descended from the Prophet. The period of Imam government lasted till 1872, when the Porte reasserted its direct rule; since this time the Turks in their dealings with the tribesmen have had more or less constant trouble, caused both by religious differences and by the incompetence and rapacity of the Turkish officials.

3. The dangerous Arab revolt of 1892 was only temporarily quelled by a lavish expenditure of Turkish troops and money, and broke out again in 1903, spreading also to Asir province; as a result of the defeat in 1903, Turkish rule in Asir is now practically limited to the Red Sea littoral. In 1904 the Yemen revolt assumed a more acute form and has now resulted in the loss to the Turks of Sana, capital of the Yemen (captured April 1905), and of the control of almost the whole of the interior of that province. Menakha, an artillery depôt of some importance, containing a garrison of about 5,000 Turks, is now closely besieged, and is expected to fall. The latest reports, however, indicate that some Albanian troops have succeeded in reinforcing this town.

4. The semi-official German Press has asserted that the present Arab revolt against the Sultan is the result of a deep laid scheme on the part of the British Government to pave the way for British supremacy in the Arabian Peninsula, and eventually to proclaim a Protectorate over Koweit and Bussorah. The Military Attaché at Constantinople reports that no opportunity of impressing the Porte with this view has been wasted, a proceeding which may be attributed to the fact that an independent or semi-independent Arabian Empire would certainly menace German interests in connection with the Baghdad Railway scheme.

5. The Arab revolutionary movement is not confined to the Yemen only: in 1904 insurrections of varying degrees of importance against Turkish rule or pretensions took place both in Central Arabia and Mesopotamia and, to a lesser extent, in other parts, and these still continue: up to date, however, there appears to be no definite indication of a concerted and general Arab rising against the Sultan.

6. In Central Arabia, Feizi Pasha, who commanded the Turkish expedition from Baghdad against Ibn Saud, and lately succeeded in effecting a junction near Hail with another Turkish force dispatched from Medina, has been transferred to the Yemen as Commander-in-chief. As a consequence of these expeditions, Mesopotamia and Hejaz were to some extent denuded of troops. In Mesopotamia some of the tribes have lately risen in insurrection but details are not available.

7. It is difficult to estimate the numbers of the Yemen rebels: they lately defeated the Sana relief column, consisting of 5,000 men and eight mountain batteries, and are now in occupation of most of the interior of the Yemen Province, having captured the Turkish garrisons. Some reports estimate their numbers at 20,000 armed

men with about thirty Turkish field guns. They are armed with Martinis or captured Mannlichers, and are reported to have captured large stores of ammunition.

8. Large Turkish reinforcements (consisting mainly of Syrian and also of Albanian troops) should have by now arrived at Hodeida. Further reinforcements are under orders from Macedonia, Armenia, and Syria, but, owing to the unpopularity of the war, the men are not coming in readily, and difficulties in transport arrangements have also caused delays. In addition, the Syrian troops have proved unsatisfactory and are often mutinous.

9. The successful Vali of Uscub (Macedonia), Shakir Pasha, has been sent to Yemen with 50,000*l.* to bribe the Arab Chiefs to submit: to judge by former similar attempts at buying off the insurgent leaders, the prospects of success of this Mission are not very great. Shakir Pasha's departure may not improbably be detrimental to the maintenance of comparative order in this part of Macedonia.

10. As above stated, Feizi Pasha has been appointed to the chief military command in the Yemen, and is now *en route* thither; he was noted in the 1892 Yemen rebellion for his policy of brutal repression, and his transfer to the Yemen may militate against the success of the expedition in Central Arabia.

11. It is stated that the Turks propose sending an expedition to Sana via Mocha and Taeiz, but, whether the Turks march on Sana via Taeiz, or via Menakha, it seems certain that they will encounter considerable opposition.

12. The situation of the Turks in the Yemen is now critical. The drafting of regular troops from Turkey in Europe to Yemen is being watched by Bulgaria with considerable interest, and the partial denudation of troops of Hejaz, Syria, and Mesopotamia for the Yemen may have serious consequences in these provinces.

13. Finally, should the present Yemen revolt spread to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, and should the Imam proclaim himself the true Kaliph in opposition to the Sultan of Turkey—a not impossible contingency, for the Imam is a more direct descendant of the Prophet than the Sultan—it is difficult to see how far the wave of fanaticism may not carry him.

General Staff, War Office, May 23, 1905.

No. 58.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Mounsey.

(No. 50.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1905.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith certified copies of an Agreement which I have signed with the French Ambassador at this Court,* providing that the period fixed for the delivery of the Arguments on behalf of the two Governments in the Muscat Arbitration shall be extended to a date to be fixed by the Arbitral Tribunal.

I request that you will forward these papers to the Permanent Bureau for distribution in a similar manner to those inclosed in my despatch to Sir H. Howard, No. 31 of the 29th April last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 59.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 26.)

Sir,

India Office, May 24, 1905.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 15th instant, asking for Mr. Secretary Brodrick's observations on a communication made by the French Ambassador to the Marquess of Lansdowne on the 8th instant relative to Major Cox's attitude in regard to the Muscat Arbitration.

M. Cambon complains that Major Cox told the Sultan that His Highness was to be a party to the arbitration, and suggested to him that he should be separately represented by Counsel. This complaint would appear to be founded on the Sultan's letter of the 19th March last, of which a translation appears in Appendix II of the British Counter-Case.

* Agreement of May 19, 1905.

[1535]

P

It will be within Lord Lansdowne's recollection that in July 1903, when the arbitration had in principle been accepted by the French Government, His Majesty's Government considered it desirable to inform the Sultan that the question of the privileges of French flag-holders would be argued before The Hague Tribunal on His Highness' behalf by the British Government, who would "welcome the assistance of anyone whom the Sultan might depute to furnish information and suggestions." Instructions to this effect were sent to the Government of India on the 29th July, 1903, and Major Cox, in reporting his action upon these instructions, communicated a verbal reply from the Sultan to the same effect as His Highness' letter of the 19th March last above referred to.

In Mr. Villiers' letter of the 14th February last, Lord Lansdowne expressed his intention to give in the British Case documentary evidence of the Sultan's spontaneous decision to commit his interests to His Majesty's Government. The Government of India were accordingly instructed, in a telegram of the 17th February, to send as early as possible all available evidence on this point. The information asked for was furnished in Major Cox's note of the 21st March last, in which he recapitulated the various communications from the Sultan bearing on this point, ending with the letter of the 19th March, and an explanation of the circumstances in which it had been written. This note, on its receipt, was forwarded to the Foreign Office for the purpose of the preparation of the British Counter-Case.

No other communication on the subject can be traced as having passed between Major Cox and the Sultan, nor, so far as Mr. Brodrick is aware, has any suggestion ever been made to His Highness that he should be represented at The Hague by Counsel.

With regard to the refusal of His Highness to accept the French list of protégés, I am to request that you will draw Lord Lansdowne's attention to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 30th March and to Major Grey's letter of the 3rd April last. From these reports it would appear that the Sultan's action in this matter was spontaneous, and that Major Grey was at once instructed by the Government of India that, in case he should be consulted by the Sultan, he should advise His Highness to accept the list without prejudice to the question of the French right to protect the persons named.

In these circumstances, it appears to Mr. Brodrick that in neither of these matters does the action of the Government of India or of their officers justify the imputations of the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 60.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, May 27.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bussorah, May 6, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 28 of to-day, I have the honour to report that I have received a copy of a telegram, dispatched through Bussorah, presumably from Aneyza, by Lieutenant-General Sudgi, who is in command of the troops from Medina, dated the 10th (23rd) ultimo, to the Palace.

After prayers for the Sultan's welfare, he states that the troops attached to the Fifth Army Corps under his command, joined the Mushir at Jibb [sic], and then marched by the wells of Derah [sic] to Kassim. The Sheikhs were summoned separately and received robes of honour and advice. They submitted with good grace. The country being quiet they entered Boreyda, the chief town of Kassim, and Aneyza without incident. The troops were well received. Salih-bin-Muhenna and Abdul Aziz-bin-Suleymi, Sheikhs who had hastened to meet them, were appointed, the former, Kaimakam of Boreyda, and the latter, Mudir of Aneyza, in reward for their fidelity and obedience. Eloquent prayers were read for the Sultan by the assembled Ulema. The Turkish flag was hoisted on the towers of Boreyda, the Hamidieh March played, and the troops drawn up in line cried "Long live our Padishah." Thousands of persons listened submissively with folded hands, tears of joy were shed, and a salute was fired. The telegram ends with dithyrambic praises of the Sultan and congratulations on this happy event, anticipatory of future victories and successes due to the pious devotion, clemency, and power of His Imperial Majesty.

I am informed that the Vali received a letter from the Mushir on the same subject on the 4th May. The letter was dated the 10th (23rd) April from Aneyza, and stated that the Imperial troops entered Boreyda on the 2nd (15th) April, and Aneyza on the 3rd (18th) April. The substance is the same as that of the telegram to the Palace referred to above. The Mushir asks the Vali to release the prisoners here belonging to Kassim.

There is no mention of the Amir Ibn Reshid in either of these communications, but I am led to believe that he was not present at the entry of the troops into Boreyda and Aneyza, and that his abstention from all interference in the affairs of Kassim was made a condition of the peaceful submission of the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 61.

Mr. Mounsey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 98.)

My Lord,

The Hague, May 26, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have this day communicated to the Secretary-General of the International Bureau at The Hague the certified copies of the Agreement signed by your Lordship and the French Ambassador at the Court of St. James', providing that the period fixed for the delivery of the arguments on behalf of the two Governments in the Muscat Arbitration shall be extended to a date to be fixed by the Arbitral Tribunal.

While adding that I have explained to M. de Ruysenaers that one copy of the document is intended for each of the two Arbitrators, one for the Umpire, when appointed, and the fourth for the archives of the International Bureau, I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE A. MOUNSEY.

No. 62.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 353.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 19, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 343 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from the Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, reporting the mobilization of the Malatia Redif Brigade for service in the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) FRANCIS STRONGE.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my despatch No. 24 of the 15th May regarding the mobilization of the Kharput Redif Brigade for service in the Yemen, that it has now been decided to mobilize the Malatia Redif Brigade which forms part of the Diarbekir Division, and comprises two regiments—one at Malatia and one at Diarbekir, for service in the same country. This makes sixteen battalions in all, or 14,000 men, ordered to leave from the Kharput and Diarbekir vilayets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché.

No. 63.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 356.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 20, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 317 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of two despatches from Mr. Richardson, His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeida, reporting on the state of affairs in the Yemen, and giving an account of the capture of Sana'a by the Imam and its evacuation by the Turkish troops and civil authorities.

Mr. Richardson mentions that the Syrian Redifs previously stationed at Menakha have been moved south to Hujjeila, and have been replaced by 2,000 fresh Albanian troops and three Turkish battalions transferred from the Anis district.

In an earlier despatch Mr. Richardson reported that the steam-ship "Kossewo" arrived on the 29th ultimo with 1,290 Albanian soldiers, and that the steam-ship "Gharb" disembarked 2,500 more under the command of Liva Ahmed Fezi Pasha on the 1st instant, and in the despatch which I now inclose, dated the 4th May, he states that in all eight battalions of Albanian troops have been landed at Hodeida, and that it has been decided to station them at Menakha.

Reports respecting the position of the Turkish garrison at Ibb have been somewhat contradictory, but it has now been ascertained that it has been successfully relieved.

I have, &c.

(For the Ambassador),

(Signed) FRANCIS STRONGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 50.)

Sir,

Hodeida, April 28, 1905.

NEWS reached me on the morning of the 25th instant that the garrison at Sana'a had surrendered to the Imam, and which was circulated later throughout the town that day, in spite of the authorities remaining reticent on the subject.

The above information has now been confirmed, and I learn that the capital actually fell on the evening of the 20th instant.

It would appear from details that have filtered through to Hodeida that all the troops and Ottoman officials, including the Vali and Commander-in-chief, have been permitted to leave for Hodeida, under a guarantee from the Imam for their safe conduct.

All forts, guns, rifles, ammunition, military stores, transport animals, &c., and all public buildings at Sana'a, I believe, have been taken over by the Imam, under the terms of capitulation.

Foreign and other merchants resident at the capital have been assured that they may continue trading, without fear or molestation, and have elected to reside there.

About 2,000 persons, consisting of civil and military officials and their families, have already arrived at Menakha en route to Hodeida.

Preparations are being made for the reception and accommodation of the higher officials.

It cannot be imagined where the few thousands of officials and military officers will be housed, as Hodeida can barely offer a couple of houses suitable for residence.

The military authorities will experience considerable difficulty about the disposal of several thousand troops more. I hear that a camp will most probably be established at Camaran.

There are rumours afloat that Menakha is about to be invested, if such has not been already effected by the insurgents from the north. Though well provisioned and capable of a stout resistance, the above place will, in my opinion, fall sooner or later into the hands of the Arabs, owing to the unreliability and mutinous character of its Syrian garrison, many of whom are deserting daily.

Should that not unlikely contingency occur which I apprehend, it would take the Turks quite six months or even more to recover their position in the Yemen, and only if an army of 50,000 men, well equipped and provisioned, were landed with adequate transport and provided with a sufficiency of funds.

Besides Menakha, the only mountain fastnesses that remain under Turkish occupation are Kufi, in the Hujjur district, which has been besieged for the past three or four months, Ta'iz, and Ibb.

The 2,000 Albanian troops that have arrived for service are at present quartered at Hujjeila.

Two battalions of the above, while proceeding to Menakha, were attacked by Arabs, and after suffering some loss succeeded in driving off the rebels, and then retired to Hujjeila.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 53.)

Sir,

Hodeida, May 4, 1905.

SINCE the fall of Sana'a, reported in my despatch No. 50 of the 28th ultimo, which fact has since been officially confirmed, no news of importance has reached this Vice-Consulate.

According to information received here, it would appear that the Imam has allowed the Turks a period of fifteen days in which to vacate the capital.

Some difficulty was at first experienced in obtaining transport for the large number of officials, troops, and their families, but this has now been solved by the Local Government remitting 5,000*l.* to the Imam, who has consented to supply the necessary transport animals.

Two caravans have so far reached Menakha, the first consisting of some 3,500 soldiers under General Izzat Pasha, who was erroneously reported as being killed some time ago; and the second of civil and military officers, women, and children, numbering about 2,000 in all. Two other caravans will start from Sana'a in the course of the next few days, the Vali and other high officials arriving by the last.

The Mutessarif of Hodeida, who for some obscure reason, unaccountable even by the Adjoint Vali himself, who accompanied Riza Pasha's force to Sana'a, and has absented himself from his post during the past three months, when his presence at Hodeida was indispensably necessary, returned to Menakha a week ago.

All is quiet at present in the neighbourhood of the latter place.

The Syrian Redifs garrisoning Menakha have been moved south to Hujjeila, and their place taken by the 2,000 Albanian soldiers recently arrived and three old battalions of Turkish troops that were formerly in the Anis district.

Up to date, eight battalions of Albanian troops have landed at Hodeida, and it has been decided to station these at Menakha.

The Commander-in-chief of all troops in Yemen, Riza Pasha, who has only held that post since March, has been superseded, and Marshal Ahmed Fezi Pasha been appointed to reconquer Sana'a and restore order in Yemen.

The above officer is now somewhere near Medina, having just successfully concluded an expedition against Ibn Sao'od, the Sheikh of Jebal Shammar.

Marshal Ahmed Fezi Pasha, who has completed the greater part of his service in this province, came here in 1873 as a Captain, and attained the rank of Major-General in 1887.

He commanded the force that was dispatched to the Yemen in 1892 to relieve Sana'a and retake the various towns captured during the last Arab rebellion headed by the late Imam during that year.

He subsequently held for a period of seven years the dual position of Governor-General of the Yemen and Commander-in-chief of the 7th Army Corps, of which he was relieved in 1898.

The new Commander-in-chief is expected at Hodeida from Yembo within the course of the next fortnight.

I learn that Liwa Riza Pasha and the Mutessarif of Ta'iz with a force of 1,000 men are besieged at Ibb, for the relief of which place they were advancing; but the news has been contradicted.

Mahmoud Bey informed me a few days ago that he had received information that Ibb had been successfully relieved, and that Brigadier-General Riza Pasha was clearing the road between that place and Kattaba.

[1535]

Q

A Civil and a Military Commission, each consisting of four high officials of their respective branches, are shortly expected at Hodeida.

The former will inquire into the causes of the present rebellion, and will discuss and draft reforms for the better government of this province.

The Military Commission is constituted for the purpose of inquiring into the recent cowardly conduct of several battalions of Syrian Redifs, and also for the trial of the various officers and men in connection with the surrender of the different Turkish towns in the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

No. 64.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 29.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 28th instant, relative to the Yemen disturbances.

India Office, May 29, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Resident, Aden, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Aden, May 28, 1905.

REPORT has been received from Political Officer at Dthali to the effect that, in view of the strong position held by the Turks at Menakba, it now seems unlikely that Kataba will be attacked, as had been anticipated.

(Repeated to Secretary of State for India, and Political Department, Bombay.)

No. 65.

Mr. Mounsey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 102.)

My Lord,

The Hague, May 29, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 50 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note which I have received from M. de Ruyssenaers—

1. Of the Agreement signed by the Government of Great Britain and France, providing that the period fixed for the delivery of the Arguments on behalf of the two Governments in the Muscat Arbitration shall be extended to a date to be fixed by the Arbitral Tribunal;

2. Of the nomination by the Governments of Great Britain and France respectively of Mr. Melville W. Fuller and Jonkheer de Savornin Lohman as members of the Tribunal; and

3. Of the nomination by the King of Italy of M. Henri Lammasch as Umpire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE A. MOUNSEY.

Inclosure in No. 65.

M. de Ruyssenaers to Mr. Mounsey.

La Haye, le 27 Mai, 1905.

LES Ministres de France et de Grande-Bretagne accrédités auprès de Sa Majesté la Reine des Pays-Bas ont bien voulu, en exécution de l'Article XXII de la Convention pour le règlement pacifique des conflits internationaux du 29 Juillet, 1899, communiquer au Bureau International de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage des copies certifiées conformes d'un Compromis Arbitral, signé à Londres le 13 Octobre, 1904, entre la République Française d'une part et la Grande-Bretagne d'autre part, instituant un Tribunal d'Arbitrage appelé à statuer sur un différend entre ces deux Puissances au sujet des boutres de Mascate.

Le premier délai pour la remise par les Hautes Parties Contractantes de leurs Mémoires respectifs avait été fixé au 13 Janvier, 1905, mais, à la suite d'un Arrangement entre les deux Puissances Signataires du Compromis Arbitral, ce délai a été prorogé jusqu'au 1^{er} Février dernier. En conséquence, le terme de trois mois pour la remise des Contre-Mémoires a été fixé au 1^{er} Mai, 1905.

Le Tribunal se réunira à La Haye à une date à fixer par le Tribunal.

Les Gouvernements de la République Française et de Sa Majesté Britannique ont désigné respectivement comme membres du Tribunal:

M. le Jonkheer de Savornin Lohman, Docteur en droit, ancien Ministre de l'Intérieur des Pays-Bas, ancien Professeur à l'Université libre d'Amsterdam, Membre de la Seconde Chambre des États-Généraux, Membre de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage;

Mr. Melville W. Fuller, Président ("Chief Justice") de la Cour Suprême aux États-Unis d'Amérique, Membre de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage;

Tandis que Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie a nommé comme Surarbitre:

M. Henri Lammasch, Docteur en droit, Membre de la Chambre des Seigneurs du Parlement Autrichien, Membre de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage.

(Signé) L. H. RUYSSENAERS,
Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire,
Secrétaire-Général de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage.

No. 66.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 4th May, relative to the desire of the French Consul at Muscat to borrow the Sultan's steamer for his journey to Sur.

India Office, May 30, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 66.

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Muscat, April 28, 1905.

PLEASE refer to my letter, dated the 3rd instant.

The French Consul wishes to borrow His Highness the Sultan's steamer for his journey to Sur. Should His Highness lend or refuse it? If he did lend it, the French Government might perhaps represent that in their case it was a proof of acquiescence, not only in the journey, but also in the object for which it is taken.

Addressed to Foreign Secretary, Government of India, and repeated Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 66.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Bushire, April 28, 1905.

I FULLY indorse the views expressed in Grey's telegram to you of to-day's date. If no other excuse handy, surely Sultan has ample grounds for frankly stating his compliance would be misinterpreted, and this certainly would be the case to a most prejudicial extent.

Inclosure 3 in No. 66.

Government of India to Major Grey.

(Telegraphic.) P.

Simla, May 2, 1905.

PLEASE refer to your telegram dated the 28th April last.

If you are consulted by the Sultan you may advise His Highness to frankly tell the French Consul that, pending The Hague decision, he would prefer to lend the steamer neither to the French nor the English Consul in case such action may be misinterpreted in favour of either party.

(Repeated to Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.)

No. 67.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 2.)

Sir,

India Office, May 31, 1905.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 22nd instant on the subject of the Turkish military post on Bubyah Island.

In reply, I am to say that Mr. Brodrick concurs in Lord Lansdowne's views that this question should be treated separately from that of the maintenance of a British Agent at Koweit, and that His Majesty's Government must reserve absolutely the right to send an Agent to Koweit.

With regard to the question of the opportunity for approaching the Turkish Government, Mr. Brodrick agrees that it might be left to Sir Nicholas O'Connor's discretion. Captain Knox, as Lord Lansdowne has been informed in my letter of the 24th instant, has been obliged to leave Koweit owing to ill-health, and will be unable to return for some time.

Mr. Brodrick will address the Government of India as to the nature of the support which it will be necessary to afford the Sheikh of Koweit for the establishment of a post on Bubyah Island, and will communicate their views upon receipt.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 68.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 107.)

My Lord,

Tehran, May 17, 1905.

THE "Habl-ul-Matin," a Calcutta paper published in Persian, which has a large circulation in this country, has lately published a most mendacious and malicious account of the recent action of His Majesty's Residency in the Persian Gulf and of the Government of India in Bahrein, representing it as a high-handed abuse of force by a strong Power against a weak one, stating that the troops were landed at Menamah and sacked the city, and foreshadowing a policy of violence by Great Britain against all the States on the shores of the Persian Gulf now that Russia's attention is absorbed in the Far East.

As I learnt that this article, palpably false as were the statements contained in it, had produced a certain impression in Persian circles here, I authorized Mr. Churchill to give a correct account of recent incidents in Bahrein to the editor of the newspaper "Terbiet," one of the most respectable organs of the native press in Tehran, with which His Majesty's Legation is in relations, and which we at rare intervals inspire. As one of the main objects of Major Cox's proceedings was the protection of Persian subjects in Bahrein against Arab and Sunni violence, and as they were taken with the full approval, and to some extent at the wish, of the Persian Government, it appeared to me very desirable that the true facts should be generally known here. I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the article which the "Terbiet" has just published on the subject, and which will, I trust, have a good effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Extract from the "Terbiet" of May 18, 1905.

(Translation.)

Bahrein.—Certain rumours have been spread lately in Tehran respecting the islands of Bahrein in the Persian Gulf, and it was reported that the Arab Sunnis had maltreated the Shiahhs, while British soldiers had committed acts of violence, and this report has, of course, grieved our friends, who, not knowing where to seek for information on the subject, applied to us. We, on our side, made inquiries of one of the members of the British Legation in this capital, who made a statement to us, which we now publish. We must add, however, that our object in giving publicity to this account is not only dictated by our desire to place the true facts before our readers, but also to point a lesson, as we think that an opportunity for reflection is offered on this occasion, and our object is not only to give you news, but to make you think.

The statement of our friends in the British Legation runs as follows:—

"The islands of Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf, have, as you know, been at different times under the suzerainty of the Turkish and Persian Empires, but are now ruled by a Sheikh who is independent of both these States.

"Sheikh Isa-bin-Khalifeh, the present Ruler of the islands, is in Treaty relations with the Government of India, which, during the last 100 years, has maintained peace and order in his waters by means of British gun-boats, which constantly patrol the Gulf, and he looks to that Government to protect his interests against the aggression of other Powers.

"The Government of India is therefore interested in the maintenance of peace in the Sheikh's islands, and it was with regret that it heard of the unfortunate incident which lately occurred there to disturb that peace, and found itself obliged to interfere in order to restore order.

"Sheikh Ali-bin-Ahmed, a nephew of the ruling Sheikh Isa, had for some time past rendered himself most objectionable to the peaceful inhabitants of the islands by his turbulent behaviour, and had, in fact, at one time incurred the displeasure of his uncle Sheikh Isa, who complained of him to the Government of India.

"This unruly person's first grave offence was an attack upon a German merchant, who was seriously assaulted by Sheikh Ali's men. Not long after, one of Sheikh Ali's servants assaulted a Persian subject, and subsequently an attack was made on the family of Haji Abdul Nabbi Kaserooni, with the result that two respectable Persians, the father, aged 80, and the brother of Abdul Nabbi, were more or less seriously wounded.

"These disturbances called for serious measures, and the Persians who were the object of the attack telegraphed to his Excellency the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, asking for support. His Excellency, after consulting the British Representative, replied, assuring them that justice would be done to them, and advising them to be patient. In the meantime, the British Resident, who proceeded to Bahrein from his head-quarters at Bushire, after satisfying himself that the Arabs were the aggressors and that the Persians had suffered injustice at their hands, demanded of the Sheikh (1) the banishment from the islands of Sheikh Ali, the principal culprit; (2) the imprisonment or flogging of the Arabs who had attacked and beaten the Persian subjects; (3) the payment to the

[1535]

R

Persians of 2,000 rupees as compensation for the injuries inflicted on them. The Sheikh, however, objected to these demands, and proposed to refer the matter to the Ecclesiastical Court for settlement by the 'Olema.' The British Resident observed that the Shiah Persians objected to a case between them and the Sunnis, in which the attacks of the latter upon them as Shiabs had been approved by the Sunni Mollahs, being referred to these Mollahs, as they did not expect justice done to their cause. The Sheikh, however, remained obdurate and the Resident found himself obliged to telegraph to the Government of India, which sent a ship of war to enforce his demands. On the appearance of the ship Sheikh Ali fled secretly from Bahrein, whither he will not be permitted to return; and Sheikh Isa, seeing that further resistance was useless, consented to the punishment of the Arabs and the payment of compensation to the Persians. The story of the British troops having sacked the town is an obvious invention."

This is the account supplied to us by the British Legation, and we will make further inquiries from other quarters, and if any further information reaches us on the subject we will publish it.

No. 69.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 366.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 26, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 339 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the return of Lieutenant-General Kyamil Pasha, President of the court-martial established in the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Consul Richards to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 27.)

Sir,

Damascus, May 17, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 24 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that Lieutenant-General Kyamil Pasha, commanding the Redifs of this Army Corps, who, as reported in the despatch under reference, left for the Yemen in order to preside over the court-martial which was to be held in that province, returned here on the 15th instant from Port Said on the plea of ill-health. I understand that his colleague, Major-General Ali Mansour Pasha, from Aleppo, will succeed him in the Presidency, assisted by Shem'i Bey and Rushdi Bey. These three officers have proceeded to the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 70.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 369.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 27, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 353 of the 19th instant, respecting the movements of Turkish troops, I have the honour to report that I learn from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Scutari (Albania) that two battalions of Redifs, one from Tirana and the other from Durazzo, have left the latter place for the Yemen by the Mahsoussé

steamer "Chark" and the Russian steamer "Nijni Novgorod." The former started on the 12th instant, and the latter on the 14th, and the number of troops embarked is stated to be 1,580.

The "Nijni Novgorod" is also to call at Avlona, where it will take up two battalions of reserves from the Vilayet of Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 71.

Mr. Mounsey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 105.)

My Lord,

The Hague, June 3, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 102 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note from M. de Ruyssenaers, informing me that M. Lammasch, President of the Arbitral Tribunal in the Muscat Dhows Arbitration, has fixed the 25th July next as the date for the meeting of the Tribunal at The Hague, and that the Arguments of the two Parties are to be delivered on the 10th July next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE A. MOUNSEY.

Inclosure in No. 71.

M. de Ruyssenaers to Mr. Mounsey.

La Haye, le 2 Juin, 1905.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

D'APRÈS les instructions de M. Lammasch, Président du Tribunal Arbitral, constitué en vertu du Compromis signé à Londres le 13 Octobre, 1904, afin de statuer sur le différend existant entre la Grande-Bretagne et la France au sujet des boutres de Mascate, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le dit Tribunal se réunira à La Haye le 25 Juillet prochain.

En même temps je suis chargé de vous informer que le Tribunal a fixé le 10 Juillet pour la remise des Arguments visés aux Articles 2 et 3 du Compromis Arbitral mentionné ci-dessus.

Je vous serais bien obligé, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de vouloir faire part de ces deux décisions à votre Gouvernement, et je saisis, &c.

(Signé) L. H. RUYSSENAERS,
Envoyé Extraordinaire.

No. 72.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Political Resident, Aden, of the 7th May, and inclosures, relative to the Aden delimitation.

It is requested that these documents, which are sent in original, may be returned to this Office as soon as done with.

India Office, June 7, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Major-General Mason to India Office.

Sir,

Aden Residency, May 7, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch dated Perim, the 30th April last, on the Subaihi border and the north-east frontier,

addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, together with a copy of my forwarding letter dated the 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. MASON, Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Major-General Mason to Government of India.

Sir, Aden Residency, May 7, 1905.
I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report by Mr. Fitzmaurice of the 30th April on the Subaihi border and north-east.

2. With regard to his remarks on Beda, paragraphs 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21, I beg to point out that I have been and am now taking steps to induce the Chief of that tribe to enter into the Treaty sanctioned by Government.

I understand one of the main obstacles in the past has been the local jealousies amongst the Beda Chief and minor Sheikhs, which I trust however to be able to overcome, and I am not without hope that within a reasonable time that the Treaty in question will be concluded, unless perhaps the present troubles in Yemen should have a disturbing effect on the British side of the border. A fuller report on the subject will follow by next mail.

3. The settlement of the south-west border (Subaihi) appears to me to be satisfactory, whilst it has also been a great advantage to have the north-east line put in principle on a more definite basis.

By the wording of the *procès-verbal* Mr. Fitzmaurice has not expressly recognized Juban as Turkish, and to a certain extent this would seem to leave the matter open, should the claims of Yafa' and the general circumstances of the case, in the event of any future demarcation of the north-east boundary, render it expedient to insist on its Yafa' connection.

I would also venture to point out that the words "at the moment of demarcation" in the *procès-verbal*, would appear to be a certain limitation on our cession of the Subaihi territory between the boundary actually delimited and the Akama-Kudam line.

4. In forwarding the last Boundary Commission Report by Mr. Fitzmaurice, I beg to place on record my appreciation of the good work he has done in connection with the boundary. Apart from his actual services in connection with demarcation, I have always found him ready to help me with his advice and experience in many matters which I have consulted him on, and that his assistance as the result of his long experience in the hinterland has been of much value to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. MASON, Major-General,
Political Resident, Aden.

Inclosure 3 in No. 72.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Government of India.

Sir, Perim, April 30, 1905.
IN accordance with the Government of India's instructions, conveyed to me in the British Ambassador's telegram of the 18th instant, I have, as reported in my telegram of the 20th instant, settled with the Turkish Commissioner the outstanding portion of some 60 miles of the south-west frontier of the Subehi, as also the questions expressly included in the recent negotiations with the Turks respecting the north-east boundary-line to the desert. I forward herewith the maps ($\frac{1}{4}$ -inch to the mile, general map, and $\frac{1}{100,000}$ large scale map of the Sheikh Saïd Peninsula) with the boundary-line marked thereon, as also a detailed description of this section of the frontier, all duly signed by Colonel Mustapha Remzi, the Ottoman Commissioner. This brings up the total extent of boundary actually delimited with the Turks to about 200 miles from point I on the Wadi Bana to Husn Murad at Sheikh Saïd.

2. I further inclose the signed *procès-verbal* in French (with a translation in English) of the last official meeting of the Joint Commission. In it will be found

mentioned the arrangement communicated by the Sublime Porte in a *note verbale*, dated the 14th March last, to His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople concerning the undertaking given by the Ottoman Government not to alienate to a third Power the Subehi territory lying between the line actually delimited from J. Numan to Husn Murad and the line of the old Subehi border from J. 'Akama through J. 'Akkar to Kudam on the shore of the Red Sea.

3. The wording of the Porte's note is vague in not giving the north-western limits (i.e., 'Akama and Kudam) of the territory to which the non-alienation Agreement refers, but I understand the British Ambassador has subsequently obtained from the Sublime Porte a statement in writing indicating more precisely the territory to which the arrangement refers. (*Vide* Secretary of State for India's telegram of the 4th April to the Government of India, Foreign Department.)

4. The tenour of the official telegram on the subject from the Ottoman Minister of War to the Turkish Commissioner, dated the 19th March, 1905, was as follows:—

"The British Government has wished to impose a condition that the Imperial Government shall never cede to a third Power the territory situated between the Akama-Kudam line and the second line terminating at Husn Murad, which you are hereby instructed to delimit. Such a condition could not be deemed worthy of discussion even, but the Ottoman Ambassador in London has made a communication concerning the territory adjoining the Husn Murad line which the British Foreign Minister has accepted as a sufficient pledge on the subject."

When urged to insert in the *procès-verbal* the words "Akama and Kudam," as the northern limits of the territory in question, the Turkish Commissioner demurred, saying that, in view of the above instructions, he could only agree to the mention of "the territory adjoining the Murad line," and that the reference might even be to the territory to the south of that line. He subsequently agreed to the wording, "adjoining and to the north of the Numan-Murad line."

5. With regard to the section of the Subehi border from J. Numan to Husn Murad, as finally drawn on the accompanying maps, it may be remarked that the Boundary Commission, on entering the Subehi country, was given to understand that the western Subehi frontier passed by J. Am Missas and thence skirted the southern slopes of the hills, reaching the sea in the vicinity of Turba, while it was found that the Turks locally laid claim to all the territory east of Sheikh Saïd up to the line of J. Am Missas, J. Kharaz, and Ras Arah.

6. Subsequently, investigations showed that the western borders of the Julédi, Burémi, and Atifi sections of the Subehi extended respectively to the points, 'Akama, 'Akkar, and Kudam, and although these extreme limits have not been insisted on the boundary actually delimited from J. Numan to Husn Murad still vindicates the Subehi claims, as against Turkish pretensions, to the extent of some hundreds of square miles. The Turks had in the past unobtrusively exercised jurisdiction up to the line of J. Am Missas and J. Kharaz, the Subehi tribal subsections of Mudariba, Aghbari, Kaluli, Mahwali, and Jarthati having actually paid taxes to the Ottoman officials at Mokha.

7. The Turkish Commissioners at first insisted strongly on their claim to the Aghbari, mainly on account of the religious importance attached by their authorities to the well-known shrine of Turba Abu-el-Esrar, situated within Aghbari limits; and it was only in the course of the Ottoman Commissioner's recent prolonged stay at Sheikh Saïd that the claim was relinquished. The result was to yield a natural boundary, which, from J. Numan, almost entirely follows the watershed between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, is easily distinguishable, and has the further merit of being the recognized border between the tribal subsections inhabiting the country through which it passes.

8. Despite the general barren character of the country this section of the frontier has also the advantage that it can be easily visited by large or small parties, as sufficient water for a camp of from 300 to 400 men is to be found at short stages or marches along its entire extent. At Mijza there is abundant flowing water, and similarly at Mudariba, some 8 miles to the west of Mijza. The wells at Turba Abu-el-Esrar, some 8 miles north-west of Mudariba, yield a fair amount of good water, and water is also to be had in the Upper reaches of the Wadis Batan and Farrukhia, while there is a plentiful spring at Ghail Hurim (the point marked 1575 on the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map), in Wadi Hurim. Water is also obtainable lower down the same wadi, at the point 1120, due south of J. Jariba, as also at Am Nabia and Sukaiya, which have each a fair supply of good drinking water.

9. The Memoranda forwarded with the Commission's letters of the 4th June, 1904, and the 8th June, 1904, contain the information obtainable from native sources as to French and Turkish past dealings at Sheikh Saïd, and their bearing on Subehi rights to the place. The Hakmi Sheikh Thabit Am Duren was the individual with whom the French dealt, while Sheikh Mohammad Ali Fattahi was confidentially employed by both French and Turks, as appears from his evidence given in the Memoranda above referred to. Both Sheikhs, who were very advanced in years, died early in last February, two interesting links with the past history of Sheikh Saïd being thus removed.

10. In accordance with the instructions contained in the Secretary of State for India's telegram of the 18th April to the Government of India, two masonry pillars in cement (3 feet at the base and 5 feet high) have been built under the supervision of Lieutenant H. J. Couchman, R.E., at the points LXXI and LXXII in the vicinity of Sheikh Saïd, while the Turkish Commissioner has had a cairn of rough stone, about 2 metres in height, erected at the point LXX.

11. The *procès-verbal* records the definition of the north-east boundary line from Lakamat-ash-Shub to the desert agreed upon with the Turkish Commissioner, as also the places and tribes definitely recognized as on the British side of such a line. By the Sultan's Iradé of February 1903 the Turkish Commissioners were instructed "to delimit in a north-easterly direction from Lakamat-ash-Shub towards the desert," but, as shown in paragraph 4 of the Commission's letter of the 1st October, 1903, they then considered that they had carried out their instructions to demarcate in a north-easterly direction when they had delimited to point I on the W. Bana. The specific admission that Rube'aten, Na'wa, and Dabiani belong to Yafa' now definitely carries the line some 20 miles further in the north-easterly direction.

12. As may be noticed from the wording of the *procès-verbal*, I have not expressly surrendered Yafa's rights to Juban, but have merely omitted all mention of their claim to the place, although the Ottoman Commissioner's admission that Rube'aten, Na'wa, and Dabiani belong to Yafa' is conditional on Juban remaining part of the Kaza of Rada.

I may point out that the basis of demarcation accepted by both Governments was the status of 1901, and that at that time all four places were considered as Turkish, while the Aden Residency records of 1894 mentioned Rube'aten, Na'wa, and Juban as being within Turkish limits. Thus, in obtaining the recognition by the Turks that Rube'aten, Na'wa, and Dabiani are Yafa', we are obtaining more than the status of 1901 warranted. According to the document inclosed in the Commission's letter of the 26th October, 1903, Rube'aten is so indisputably Yafa' that it could not have been left to the Turks without a loss of prestige *vis-à-vis* our tribesmen, but the Yafa' connection with the other places in question is much weaker.

13. The words in the *procès-verbal* "as also all other Yafa' districts lying to the south and east of the aforesaid north-east line" are intended to cover Reyu, an appanage of the Yafa' Sultan Haidara Muhammad of Mahjaba, and also Ahl Saïd-al-Mashrik, a small nomad tribal section related to Dabiani, should the Turks, at the moment of demarcation, desire to dispute their Yafa' connection.

14. The statement of the Ottoman Commissioner quoted in the *procès-verbal* that the basis of the north-east demarcation is in general the north 45° east line, or true north-east line from Lakamat-ash-Shub up to the desert, entitles us to consider, at the least, all tribes to the south and east of the true north-east line as within the British sphere.

15. The specific admission that the Aulaki with all its sub-divisions and dependencies are one of the "nine cantons" completes the list of the nine tribes which the Porte since 1873 was supposed to have recognized as British. The late Resident telegram of the 20th December, 1903, states that the Aulaki Sultan claims suzerainty over Behan-al-Kasab. If this is so, in fact, the district is a dependency of the Aulaki. I believe, moreover, a Treaty was concluded early in 1904 with Sharif Ahmad Mohsin of Behan-al-Kasab.

16. The recent demarcation was proposed by the Sultan of Turkey on the basis of the "nine cantons," i.e., the nine British tribes notified to the Porte in 1873. As Beda was not one of these, it became imperative *vis-à-vis* the Turkish Government, as repeatedly pointed out by the Commission, to enter into Treaty engagements with Beda as early as possible, and notify the same to the Porte so as to bring it within the scope of His Majesty's Government's declaration in 1873 that it reserved the right to make fresh Treaties with the tribes. The hitch in concluding a Treaty with Beda (*vide* Resident's telegram to Foreign Representative, Simla, of the 12th May,

1904) and its consequent omission from the notification to the Porte of the 11th August, 1904, made it, with its dependencies, the one serious gap in the north-eastern line.

17. Were a joint Anglo-Turkish Mission to proceed as far as the north-eastern limits of Dabiani, the Turkish Commissioners would refuse to recognize Beda as within our sphere, and a prolonged delay would occur before precise orders on the subject could be obtained and reach them from Constantinople. It is true that the words in the *procès-verbal*, "in general the N. 45° E. line up to the desert," imply that Beda, &c., are on the British side of the line, but a Turkish Commission on the spot would, nevertheless, probably maintain that Beda and its dependencies are part of the Turkish administrative sub-district of Rada.

18. As a protracted stay in the Dabiani country, a barren tract, where communications are execrable and transport difficulties very great, would be most costly, if not, indeed, dangerous, it would seem essential that, before any Joint Commission ever undertakes the north-eastern demarcation, the Turkish Government should be induced to send categorical instructions to the Yaman authorities to recognize Beda with its dependencies as belonging to the district of the "nine cantons."

19. For that purpose, after a Treaty is concluded with Beda, the Porte could be reminded that His Majesty's Government, in notifying the original nine tribes to the Ottoman Government in 1873, had specially reserved the right to enter into fresh engagements of the sort, and informed that such arrangements had been concluded with Beda and, perhaps also Behan-al-Kasab, which lie mainly to the south of the true north-eastern line from Lakamat-ash-Shub up to the desert, now agreed to as the basis of the north-eastern demarcation, and consequently fall within the limits of the district of the nine cantons.

20. Since they re-occupied Yemen in 1870-73, the Turks have only once penetrated in the direction of Beda, the small town of Rada being their starting point. Should the tribes report a Turkish movement into the Ghanami or Malgami outlying dependencies of Beda, we should, I think, even before the conclusion of a Treaty with Beda, be entitled to protect, on the ground that these places are mainly south of the true north-eastern line to the desert, now recognized by the Turks as in principle the boundary line in those regions.

21. The Turkish Commissioner at Sheikh Saïd being personally most anxious for a speedy settlement, and at the same time unaware that we were prepared not to insist on the definite recognition of the Aulaki and dependencies as one of the nine tribes, telegraphed on the 22nd March, 1905 (please see my telegram No. 9 of the 24th March, 1905, to the British Ambassador, Constantinople), pointing out that "as Nisab, the Aulaki head-quarters, lay well south of the N. 45° E. line implied in the Imperial Iradé of the 12th February, 1903 (i.e., the 30th January, 1318, Turkish date), the Aulaki and dependencies would appear to have been impliedly admitted as one of the nine cantons." On the 2nd April he received a telegraphic reply from the Minister of War, informing him, on behalf of the Grand Vizier, that "in view of the statements in his (i.e., the Turkish Commissioner's) telegram of the 22nd March, there was no reason to hesitate about the status of Aulaki as one of the nine cantons." I give these details, as a reference to them may be useful, should Beda and Behan ever become the subject of discussion with the Sublime Porte.

22. With the somewhat important exception of Beda, the Turkish Commissioner has now accepted substantially the desiderata set forth in the Government of India's telegram of the 14th July, 1904, to the Secretary of State for India. I may also point out that in the case of all four of the nine tribes whose borders have come under the delimitation (i.e., the Yafa', Amiri, Haushabi, and Subehi), considerably more has been obtained than had been expected previous to demarcation. The accepted basis of the latter being the tribal borders according to the status of 1901, the frontier laid down is, in places, not a natural one. This applies, perhaps, especially to the section of the Haushabi border which crosses the Addareja Valley between Basésa and Ras Namis, instead of following the natural line of the crest of Jabal-am-Amma and Jabal Jarban down to Jalisa (*vide* paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 of the Commission's No. 19 of the 15th March, 1904).

23. I understand projects are under consideration for the construction of a light railway from Aden up the Tiban Valley to the Haushabi border, presumably somewhere in the vicinity of Addareja, and it was with a view to the possibility of a railway terminus in that neighbourhood that the Boundary Commission endeavoured, with success, to arrange that the principal water supplies to the south of Jabal-am-Amma should be left on the British side of the line. Should these railway projects

be realized, the trade of the fertile districts near Taiz and Ibb would be tapped, and there would certainly be an increase of traffic and business in and around Mavia, with a corresponding increase of Turkish Customs "activity" in the valley north of Addareja. In such an eventuality the necessity for a ratification of the boundary to the crest of Jabal-am-Amma, &c., would probably be more seriously felt than at present.

24. Though the status of 1901 precluded the possibility of taking the boundary along the natural line of the crests of the hills at the time of demarcation, the Arabic documents attached to the Boundary Commission's No. 19 of the 15th March, 1904, show that tribally the Haushabi Sultan might be entitled to claim the Am Amma-Jarban-Jalisa line, a rectification that would be more acceptable to the Wajihi and Shamera villagers now that the Haushabi Sultan Ali Mana has replaced the lately deceased Sultan Mohsin, and the latter's harsh rule has given place to the more conciliatory methods of his successor.

25. Copies of all documents and maps of the south-west Subehi frontier have also been forwarded, as usual, for transmission to the Government of India, Foreign Department, the Government of Bombay, the Secretary of State for India, and His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople. The maps and description of boundary sent to the Government of India will, I presume, be forwarded to the Surveyor-General of India with a view to the completion of the final boundary maps required for ratification at Constantinople.

26. With reference to the large scale map of Sheikh Said, the boundary between Jabal Kuwah and Husn Murad had, according to my instructions, to be drawn so as to pass a certain distance inland from the actual shore line, while leaving the village of Turla and its wells on the Turkish side. In the original survey the coast line was slightly inaccurate, and the alteration shown on the map is by Captain Bond, R.E.

27. I have handed over the archives of the Boundary Commission to the Political Resident, Aden. They contain such a large number of documents referring to other than purely boundary matters, that I have thought it useful for future reference to subjoin a list of the principal documents having a direct bearing on the different sections of the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 72.

DOCUMENTS in the Records of the Aden Boundary Commission having direct bearing on the different sections of the frontier.

Section of Frontier.	Subject of Document.	No. and Date of Document.
Amiri	Extent of, and merits of, Amiri claims ..	No. 271 of May 25, 1903.
Amiri (with part of Haushabi)	Settlement of, with map (scale 1:100,000) and description ..	No. 18 of March 15, 1904.
Haushabi	Merits and settlement agreed on ..	No. 19 of March 15, 1904.
Haushabi and Subehi to Ras Iraf	Settlement with half-inch map ..	No. 45 of June 11, 1904.
Subehi	Respective claims of Turks and Subehi ..	No. 21 of March 15, 1904.
Subehi (western portion)	Ditto	No. 31 of April 26, 1904.
"	Further information, with sketch map and Memorandum, by Mr. Fitzmaurice, on French, &c., dealings with Sheikh Said ..	No. 41 of June 4, 1904.
Subehi (Atifi section)	Documentary, &c., proof as to Atifi claims to Sheikh Said, Kudam, &c. ..	No. 42 of June 8, 1904.
North-east boundary from L. Ash-shub to desert	Merits of respective Turkish and British claims, with general information respecting, with sketch map 10 miles to an inch ..	No. 331 of October 1, 1903.
Yafa' claim to Rube'aten	Incloses Imami document concerning ..	No. 340 of October 26, 1903.
Shubbi-Mares border	Settlement to W. Bana, with map and description ..	No. 337 of October 20, 1903.

Inclosure 5 in No. 72.

Procès-verbal of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission for the Delimitation of the Boundary of the Nine Cantons, held at Turba (Sheikh Said) on April 20, 1905.

Présents :

Pour la Turquie—

Moustapha Remzi Bey, Colonel d'État-Major, Commissaire Ottoman.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—

Mr. G. H. Fitzmaurice, Commissaire Britannique.

APRÈS discussion des détails de la frontière des Soubéha de Barh-am-'Ashara (Khourj), marquée LXV et 69 sur la carte, et examen des documents et autres preuves s'y référant, Mr. Fitzmaurice, Commissaire Britannique, déclare que, bien que ces documents et preuves, ainsi que le témoignage des habitants qu'on a interrogés l'année dernière sur les lieux, aient démontré que la frontière occidentale des Soubéha s'étend jusqu'à 'Akama et de là passe par 'Akkar pour gagner l'endroit appelé Koudam, le Gouvernement Britannique, animé d'un esprit de conciliation et de ses sentiments traditionnels d'amitié envers le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, ne l'a pas jugé opportun, lors du travail de délimitation, d'insister sur le maintien effectif des droits des Cheikhs du canton des Soubéha sur tout le territoire réclamé par eux jusqu'à la susdite ligne d'Akama, 'Akkar, et Koudam, et, par conséquent, a approuvé la proposition de ses Commissaires de délimiter sur la base d'une ligne qui, partant de Barh-am-'Ashara (LXV), atteint, à une distance de 25 kilom. au nord-ouest de Barh-am-'Ashara, le sommet de Djebel Nouman, se trouvant sur la ligne de partage des eaux entre la Mer Rouge et le Golfe d'Aden, à la condition, toutefois, que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman s'engage à ne jamais aliéner à une tierce Puissance le territoire situé entre cette dernière ligne et la ligne sus-mentionnée d'Akama, 'Akkar, et Koudam; qu'à la suite de pourparlers entre les deux Gouvernements amis, l'Ambassade Britannique à Constantinople vient de lui faire savoir que des instructions dans le sens sus-indiqué ont été envoyées par la Sublime Porte au Commissaire Ottoman.

M. le Colonel Moustapha Remzi Bey déclare qu'en effet il a reçu, en date du 6 (19) Mars, par l'entremise du Ministère Impérial de la Guerre, des instructions basées sur un Iradé Impérial de Sa Majesté le Sultan l'ordonnant de délimiter la frontière du canton des Soubéha par une ligne aboutissant à Husn Mourad et que, d'après les instructions lui parvenues, la Sublime Porte s'engage à ne jamais aliéner à une tierce Puissance le territoire confiné à la ligne Nouman-Husn Mourad et situé au nord de cette ligne.

Là-dessus les deux Commissaires rédigent une description détaillée de la section de la ligne de frontière qui, partant de Barh-am-'Ashara (LXV), aboutit à Husn Mourad, et tracent la ligne sur les cartes qu'ils signent et échangent.

Quant à la partie de la frontière au nord-est du point marqué No. 1 sur le Ouadi Bana, c'est-à-dire la ligne qui, selon l'Iradé Impérial du 30 Janvier, 1318, v.s. (12 Février, 1903, n.s.), part de Lékemét-ul-Choub et se dirige dans la direction nord-est jusqu'au désert, Mr. Fitzmaurice, Commissaire Britannique, déclare qu'une partie de cette ligne, à savoir, la frontière entre Mouréis et Chouaib, ayant déjà été délimitée, il reste à fixer une base pour la prolongation de cette ligne jusqu'au désert; qu'en vertu de l'Iradé Impérial précité, cette partie de la démarcation doit suivre, en général, la ligne droite de Lékemét-ul-Choub nord-est jusqu'au désert, sauf toujours les déviations exigées par la nature du terrain; et que les documents et autres preuves fournis par les Cheikhs des Yafa' démontrent incontestablement que les endroits appelés Roubéatein, Na'wa, et Dhabiani forment partie du canton des Yafa', tandis que les Aulaki (pluriel, Awálik), avec toutes leurs sous-divisions et dépendances, ainsi que tout autre district de Yafa' se trouvant au sud et à l'est de la susdite ligne nord-est, appartiennent aux "neuf cantons."

M. le Colonel Moustapha Remzi Bey, Commissaire Ottoman, répond que, selon les instructions reçues de son Gouvernement, il reconnaît que la base de la démarcation du point I sur le Ouadi Bana, en vertu de l'Iradé Impérial du 30 Janvier, 1318 (v.s.) (12 Février, 1903 (n.s.)), est en général la ligne N. 45° E. de Lékemét-ul-Choub jusqu'au désert; qu'à la condition que l'ouzlé de Djouban reste du côté du Caza de Rida il reconnaît que les ouzles de Roubéatein, Na'wa, et Dhabiani forment partie du Canton des Yafa', et que les Awálik avec toutes leurs sous-divisions et dépendances, ainsi que tout autre district de Yafa' se trouvant au sud et à l'est de la susdite ligne nord-est, appartiennent aux "neuf cantons."

Le Commissaire Ottoman ajoute que dans le voisinage de Cheikh Saïd, les indigènes, et autres, du côté Ottoman ont eu l'habitude de se faire procurer de l'eau

des sources se trouvant du côté des Soubéha, et qu'il espère qu'il n'y ait aucun inconvénient à ce qu'on continue à l'avenir de se servir de ces sources, comme par le passé.

Mr. Fitzmaurice déclare que, de la part de son Gouvernement, il ne saurait y avoir aucun inconvénient à cet égard.

Les Commissaires des deux Gouvernements amis, étant d'accord sur le contenu de ce procès-verbal, le signent en double et échangent les copies conformes.

(Signé) MOUSTAPHA, Colonel,
Commissaire Ottoman.
G. H. FITZMAURICE,
Commissaire Britannique.

Tourbé (Cheikh Saïd), le 20 Avril, 1905.

[The English translation is not printed.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 72.

DESCRIPTION of Boundaries.

No.	Name.	Description.
LXV	Barh-am-'Ashara (or Khurj)	From Barh-am-'Ashara (also called Barh-am-Khurj) the line proceeds in a general north-westerly direction, and follows the north side of the road running along the foot of J.-am-Ibdar, and keeping to the left bank of the Wadi Khasana (52), reaches the col called Barh-am-Mashrak (37) at the point numbered LXVI.
LXVI	Barh-am-Mashrak ..	From Barh-am-Mashrak it ascends to a point on the northern spur of J. Tufasu (47), and crossing W. Ghoréf (29) at a point about half a kilometer to the west of the hamlet of Khabal (36), ascends to the summit of J. Numan.
LXVII	J. Numan ..	From J. Numan the line turns in a south-westerly direction, and follows the watershed between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, passing through the points Barh-ar-Ruwés (34), J.-am-Najaj (39), J. Sef, Barh-al-Haima (a col about 1½ kilom. to the south of the hamlet of Al Haima) (49), Nijd-am-Rahaz (54), J. Sin Sanfa, to the summit of J. Jariba.
LXVIII	J. Jariba ..	It then descends the south-west spur of J. Jariba, and goes straight in an almost due westerly direction to the summit of J. Kahbub, from which point it crosses the tract of desert country in a straight line to the top of J. Kuwah leaving the well of Al Hajari on the Turkish side.
LXIX	J. Kuwah ..	From the summit of J. Kuwah (see large scale map of Sheikh Saïd 10000) the boundary line follows the heights to the highest point (LXX) on the south-eastern spur of J. Kuwah. The point LXX is situated about 600 yards, i.e., nearly 550 metres to the west and south of the hill called J. Mijbiya on the large scale map, and is marked by a cairn of rough stone, some 2 metres in height, erected by the Turks.
LXXI	J. Labeji ..	From LXX the line runs straight to point LXXI on the most northerly of the two rocky hillocks lying to the north and west of J. Sue'diya. Point XXI is marked by a masonry pillar in cement, about 2½ feet square at the base and 5 feet in height. The two hillocks are known to the Arabs as Jebel Labeji.
LXXII	Husn Murad ..	From point LXXI the boundary runs again in a straight line to the highest point of the headland called Husn Murad. At LXXII a pillar of masonry in cement, 2½ feet at the base and 6 feet high, has also been erected. Husn Murad is sometimes called Sheikh Murad, or simply Al Husn (i.e., the fort), from an old native-built fort, the remains of which still exist at the spot.
LXXIII	.. ..	From this pillar the line follows the crest of Husn Murad to the water's edge at a point marked LXXI on the boundary map.

(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE,
British Commissioner.

Description de la Frontière du Canton des Soubéha.

Du point LXV la ligne de frontière s'étend dans une direction générale nord-ouest et suit le côté septentrional de la route qui court le long du pied du Djebel-am-Ibdar et le côté gauche du Ouadi Khasana (52) jusqu'au col appelé Nijd Mashrak (37) et numéroté LXVI sur la carte.

De là elle monte à un point sur le contrefort septentrional du Djebel Tafasu (47) et, franchissant le Ouadi Ghoréf (29) à un point situé un demi kilomètre à l'ouest du hameau de Khabal (36), monte au sommet du Djebel Numan (LXVII).

De ce point elle tourne dans une direction sud-ouest et suit la ligne de partage des eaux entre la Mer Rouge et le Golfe d'Aden en passant par les points Barh-am-Ruwés (34), Djebel-am-Najaj (39), Djebel Sef, Barh-al-Haima (un col qui se trouve à une distance de 1½ kilom. au sud du hameau d'Al Haima (49), Nijd-am-Rahaz (54), Djebel Sin Sanfa, jusqu'au sommet du Djebel Jariba (LXVIII).

La ligne descend ensuite par le contrefort sud-ouest du Djebel Jariba et, prenant une direction vers l'ouest, passe tout droit au sommet du Djebel Kahabub et, de là traverse la région déserte en ligne directe jusqu'au sommet du Djebel Kuwah (LXIX), laissant le puits d'Al-Hajari du côté Turc.

Du sommet du Djebel Kuwah (voir la carte du Cheikh Saïd, grande échelle 10000) la ligne de frontière suit les hauteurs jusqu'au plus haut point sur le contrefort au sud-est du Djebel Kuwah. Ce point, numéroté LXX et marqué par une borne, est situé environ 600 yards, c'est-à-dire, à peu près 550 mètres à l'ouest et sud de la colline appelée Djebel Mijbiya sur la carte. De ce dernier point elle passe en ligne droite au monticule rocheux (LXXI), marqué par une borne, le plus au nord des deux monticules situés au nord et à l'ouest du Djebel Suédiya; de là se dirige, en ligne directe, au point (numéroté LXXII et marqué par une borne) le plus élevé du promontoire connu sous le nom de Husn Mourad (appelé aussi Cheikh Mourad), et, suivant sa crête, atteint le bord de la mer au point numéroté LXXIII sur la carte.

(Signé) MOUSTAPHA, Colonel,
Commissaire Ottoman.
G. H. FITZMAURICE,
Commissaire Britannique.

Le 20 Avril, 1905.

No. 73.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 31st ultimo, relative to the Turkish military post on Bubyen Island.

India Office, June 6, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 31, 1905.

KOWEIT. Your letter of the 16th March last, Secret.

Knox having left Koweit, it is proposed to make a further representation to the Turkish Government as to Bubyen Island at an early opportunity. Our right to send Agent to Koweit from time to time will be absolutely reserved during negotiations with the Porte. Should the latter's reply be unsatisfactory, we shall have to consider the question of deputing Agent to Koweit with orders to arrange for establishment on Bubyen Island of a Koweit post. I should be glad to know what support we shall have to give the Sheikh in establishing the post. His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople anticipates that Sheikh will be unwilling to take this step.

No. 74.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 95.)

My Lord,

Rome, June 5, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 142 of the 27th ultimo and to my telegram of this day's date, I have the honour to state that I have just received an official communication from the Italian Government informing me that Dr. Henry Lammaschi has formally accepted the appointment as Umpire in the Muscat Arbitration Case between England and France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 75.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 11th May, relative to the trade in arms with Koweit.

India Office, June 8, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Bushire, April 23, 1905.

(Confidential.)

I HAVE the honour to refer you to Foreign Department letter, dated the 7th September, 1904, on the subject of the duties of the new Political Agent at Koweit.

2. In paragraph 5 thereof the Government of India expressed their desire to be furnished with information regarding the trade in arms with Koweit, and I now have the honour to forward, for information, a copy of a recent Report which I have now received from Captain Knox on the subject.

3. When I have at any time received special intimation from Muscat or elsewhere of the consignment of arms to Koweit, I have asked the Political Agent to apprise Sheikh Mubarak of it; and I have also reminded the British India Steam Navigation Company of the prohibition which exists against the importation of arms into that port.

In view, however, of the somewhat delicate position in which our Representative at Koweit has been placed at first starting, and to the fact that had he shown any disposition to worry Sheikh Mubarak about this or any other matter, the latter would probably have regarded his presence as a doubtful advantage, and would probably have made things unpleasant for him, it seemed advisable to limit our action to the extent above mentioned, and pending any special instructions which the Government of India see fit to communicate to me on the subject, I shall not take any more decided line so far as Koweit is concerned.

I understand, moreover, that an investigation of the arms traffic in the Gulf has formed an item of Mr. J. G. Lorimer's work for the "Gazetteer," and on receipt of his Report the Government of India will be in a position to take the whole question in review as it exists at the present moment.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Captain Knox to Major Cox.

Koweit, February 21, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 15th February last, on the subject of the trade in arms and ammunition at Koweit, in which I am referred to the correspondence quoted in the margin.*

2. The instructions contained therein have not by any means been overlooked, but I have found the procuring of reliable and detailed information on the subject very difficult.

3. The ordinary attitude of the Koweitis, headed by Sheikh Mubarak and his family, is to deny flatly, in spite of evident proofs to the contrary, that a trade in arms in which Koweit is concerned exists at all, and this has been the usual answer I have received to cautious inquiries in that direction.

4. The few people who are inclined to give any information have enabled me to put the following facts together:—

(a.) The trade in arms at Koweit dates from the time when Sheikh Mubarak made himself Sheikh. Sheikh Muhammed, it is said, was afraid of the Turks and refused to allow anything of the kind.

(b.) About half the imports to Koweit are carried in the British India steamers, more especially since the Belgians showed some activity in capturing dhows laden with arms. Probably the average load with each fortnightly steamer is 200 rifles, or, say, 5,000 rifles per annum.

(c.) The remainder are smuggled along in dhows. All these arms come from Muscat, and the total annual trade from both sources is estimated at some 12,000 rifles.

(d.) My informants tell me that these arms, after leaving Koweit, are distributed equally between Persia and Turkey.

The arms for Persia go by sea to any convenient spot between Mohammerah and Bushire, but not to Bushire itself.

The arms for Turkey, except a small proportion that go to the Bedouins and Nejd, go by creeks and by land to Zubair, whence they are again distributed in Bussorah and between Bussorah and Bagdad.

(e.) A casual question, direct to a Bedouin headman of the Umtair, the other day, elicited the information that, according to his estimate, one man in five of the tribe is armed with a Martini-Henry rifle. He added that there is an artificer in the tribe who repairs weapons that get out of order and that the price of a good rifle is 100 reals.

If this is correct, there must be a handsome profit in selling to the Bedouins, for Koweit prices are 36 reals for the Martini-Henry and 42 reals for the Mauser.

(f.) Sheikh Mubarak takes duty on these arms both by sea and land, apparently both on import and re-export. His profits on the trade cannot be less than 50,000 dollars annually.

(g.) Trade has been slack lately, but it is hoped that, with the plentiful rainfall we have had lately in the neighbourhood and in Persia, purchasers will be in a position to buy, and trade is likely to be brisk in May and June.

(h.) The following is a list of the principal dealers in arms and ammunition:—

- (1.) Haji Mohammed Ali, Marafi, of Persian extraction.
- (2.) Mohammed Taqui, also Persian.
- (3.) Mohammed Jaueyfi.
- (4.) Mubarak Sayer.
- (5.) Haji Abdullah Thahaba.

The last-named is the agent of M. Goguyer, of Muscat, but he charges so high a price for his rifles that, it is said, for the last two years he has not been able to sell any. He is not a fool, and it is more likely that his trade is a blind, while the information that he sends to Goguyer at Muscat is no doubt useful in regulating Muscat prices.

Besides these, there are many small pedlars who dabble in the trade from time to time. To keep track of these would be almost impossible. Many of them are not even natives of Koweit, but use Koweit as a convenient distributing centre.

* Paragraph 5 of Foreign Department letter of September 7, 1904.

No. 76.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 378.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 2, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 269 of the 22nd April, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah, inclosing a list of indemnity claims by Indian merchants for robbery of goods in the Hejaz district, and reporting the satisfactory progress which is being made towards the settlement of those claims.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 56.)

Sir,

Jeddah, May 17, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Vali, having arrived here some six weeks ago, I directed his Excellency's attention to the usual indemnity claims by Indian merchants for robbery in the Hejaz, as per list given in my despatch No. 18; but as Ahmed Ratib Pasha's time was much occupied with public and private business, this was for the moment left in abeyance. However, recently communications, authorizing the necessary payment from the Treasury of the Grand Sherif were received, and from his Excellency the Kaim Maqam I understand that terms of 50 per cent. on the claims (with immediate settlement as formerly granted) will again be allowed to the claimants—these terms being not less favourable, but if anything rather better, than those granted to Ottoman or other foreign subjects in similar case.

Further inquiry and evidence has now been demanded in respect of the claims Nos. 2, 4, 14, 16, 21, and 22, cash and sundry; and this also having been produced, so far as can be quickly obtained, it is hoped that a general settlement will be shortly made, as to which I expect to be able to report fully by next mail.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

No. 77.

Mr. G. Mounsey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 106.)

My Lord,

The Hague, June 10, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 105 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note from M. de Ruyssenaers, informing me of the appointment of M. Maurice Herbet as Agent of the French Government and of M. Laronce as Secretary to the French Legation in the matter of the Muscat Dhows Arbitration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE A. MOUNSEY.

Inclosure in No. 77.

M. de Ruyssenaers to Mr. Mounsey.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

La Haye, le 9 Juin, 1905.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le Chargé d'Affaires de France à La Haye m'a fait savoir que M. Maurice Herbet, Secrétaire d'Ambassade de seconde classe, a été nommé Agent du Gouvernement de la République Française auprès du

Tribunal Arbitral auquel sera soumis le différend au sujet des boutres Mascatais, tandis que M. Laronce, Consul de France, a été désigné par le même Décret comme Secrétaire de la Délégation Française.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) L. H. RUYSSENAERS.

No. 78.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, June 13.)

(No. 26. Secret and Confidential.)

Sir,

Bassorah, May 19, 1905.

FROM further telegrams sent by the Marshal Foyzi Pasha and by Abdurrahman-es-Saoud to the Palace, copies of which have been handed to me, it appears that Riad, Washem, Sedeyr and their dependencies have been formed into a caza, of which the "merkez" or centre will be Riad, and that Abdurrahman-es-Saoud has been made Kaimakam of it on solemnly taking an oath of allegiance to the Sultan. The Marshal, in one telegram, which is partly in cypher and leaves much open to conjecture, repeats the substance of his reports sent via Medina regarding his entry into Kassim and his meeting with Lieutenant-General Sudgi at Jebb. The appointments of Salik-bin-Hassan to the Kaimakamlik of Bouyda and of Abdul Aziz-es-Suleymi to the Mudirlik of Aneyza are also mentioned. In another telegram repeated to the head-quarters of the 6th Army Corps at Bagdad, the Marshal states that the Notables of Riad came to his camp near Aneyza and proffered their submission which was accepted, and prayers were said for the Sultan and thanks expressed by the Chiefs for the benefits they had received.

The Marshal states that he has ten battalions with him in Kassim, of which four are at Jeheffa [sic]. There appear also to be three battalions at Waksa awaiting transport to Nejef. He has sent Lieutenant-Colonel Mazhar Bey with a guard of 120 men and 350 camels, under the guidance of the Sheikhs of Jerb [sic], to get provisions and forage from Khake [sic], with instructions to proceed as far as Medina for them if none are found at the former place.

In conversation with the Vali, his Excellency informed me that the people of Kassim were well disposed to the troops and willing to come under administrative control, but that they would have nothing to do with Ibn Reshid. He said the latter left the Marshal before his entry into Kassim and returned to Hayil. I am informed that the Amir showed some reluctance to obey the Marshal's orders, but, on being confronted with an Irade of the Sultan directing his withdrawal, he left the troops and departed to Hayil.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

No. 79.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 396 A.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 10, 1905.

I HAVE received from the Resident at Aden a copy of Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch of the 30th April to the Government of India, reporting the settlement of the outstanding portions of the Aden Protectorate frontier, together with the maps and *procès-verbal* signed jointly by him and the Ottoman Commissioner. It will, I presume, be necessary to place officially on record with the Sublime Porte the settlement which has been reached, and I should propose to do so by a simple exchange of notes, to which would be attached copies of maps above mentioned, showing the frontier as finally traced by the Joint Commission, and of the *procès-verbal* exchanged at Sheikh Said between the two Commissioners.

The stipulation concerning the non-alienation by Turkey to another Power of the Subaihi territory lying between the Kudam line and the frontier actually delimited from Mudariba to Husu Murad, near Sheikh Said, is already sufficiently provided for by the declarations of the Porte of the 14th March and the 1st April (copies of which were forwarded to your Lordship in my despatches Nos. 168 and 203 of the 14th March and

the 2nd April respectively), and it is moreover mentioned in the *procès-verbal* above referred to.

As regards the undelimited portion of the frontier, from the River Bana north-eastwards to the desert, I should be glad to know whether your Lordship considers it will be sufficient to insert in the note a paragraph to the effect that the actual demarcation is postponed to a more favourable moment.

With your Lordship's approval I will ascertain whether this method of recording the results of the negotiations is acceptable to the Porte, and, if so, I shall have the honour of submitting to your Lordship a draft of the proposed note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 80.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 77. Africa.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 20, 1905.

IN my despatch No. 9, Africa, of the 15th January, your Excellency was instructed to call the attention of the French Government, acting in concert with your Italian colleague, to the extent to which Jibuti is made use of as a distributing centre for arms, and to express the hope that they might be willing to take steps for the total suppression of the traffic in arms.

I have now been informed by the French Ambassador that, the matter having been referred to the Minister of Marine, the latter, in consequence of the information which he has obtained, both from the Governor of the French Somali Coast and from the Officer Commanding the naval division of the Indian Ocean, is of opinion that the presence of a cruiser in those waters would be of little use, in view of the measures already taken by the French Administrative authorities for preventing the smuggling of arms. Moreover, the Governor of the French Somali Coast reports that since his arrival in the Colony on the 5th August, 1904, no native vessel flying the French flag has been reported to him as carrying arms or ammunition intended to be landed at any point of the French Coast, or of the neighbouring Italian or British Colonies.

All vessels starting from Jibuti are obliged to proceed to Obock for examination before leaving the Bay of Tadjourah, and in these circumstances it is impossible for them to land arms or ammunition on the French coasts of that bay. All the necessary measures have been taken to enforce observance in the interior of the French Colony of Jibuti of the provisions of the Brussels Act relating to the prohibition of the sale of arms of precision in Africa.

The merchants of the Colony have been informed of the penalties to which they would render themselves liable should it be found that they were selling arms and ammunition to the native races of the Tadjourah region.

Your Excellency will perceive that the above observations of the French Ambassador contain no allusion to the export of arms from Jibuti to the opposite Arabian Coast for re-exportation to that of Africa. As this is the manner in which the traffic is chiefly conducted, it will doubtless be necessary again to approach the French Government on the subject. Before doing so, however, I have thought it advisable to consult the Italian Government, and I inclose a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Italian Ambassador.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 81.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Signor Pansa.

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, June 20, 1905.

WITH reference to my note of the 28th January, informing M. Carignani of the representations which His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris had been instructed to make to the French Government with a view to their taking steps for the suppression of the traffic in arms at Jibuti, I have the honour to state that the French Government have

* No. 81.

informed me that no arms or munitions of war are ever exported from Jibuti either to any other point of their own territory in those parts or to the neighbouring Italian and British possession. They further assert that every step that is possible, with a view to the execution in the interior of the provisions of the Brussels Act, has already been taken. They make no allusion, however, to the question of the export of arms from Jibuti to the opposite Arabian coast for reintroduction on that of Africa.

As this is the manner in which the traffic complained of is chiefly conducted, it would appear necessary again to call the attention of the French Government to the matter.

I have therefore the honour to request your Excellency to ascertain the views of the Italian Government as to whether further joint representations should be made by the Italian and British Ambassadors at Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 82.

Consul Devey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Jeddah, June 10, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith direct, for the information of the Office, copy of a despatch, No. 64, of to-day's date which is being sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 64.)

Sir,

Jeddah, June 10, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward a Memorandum by Vice-Consul Dr. S. M. Husain, which affords confirmation to a Renter's telegram of the 6th instant, recounting that "the rebels have captured Kataba and Ibh (Abha), and are now investing Taiz," published in London.

The troops in Assir are said to have been two battalions at Comfidah, two scattered along the road thence to Abha, and one only in the latter place; but all have now fallen back to Comfidah. These battalions would be the four of the 54th and one of the 53rd Regiment. The Colonel Commanding the 54th Regiment has been employed in Hedjaz during the last eighteen months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

NEWS has arrived here a few days ago that insurrection in Assir has lately taken alarming proportions.

The insurgents, under the leadership of Ahmed-bin-Aiz, the Chief Sheikh of the country, have raided Abha, the head-quarters of the local administration, and compelled the Turkish Mutassarif and the troops to evacuate the town. The officials have been allowed to carry with them only their personal effects, while all the Government property has been confiscated by the Sheikh. The Mutassarif has arrived at Comfidah, and has informed the higher authorities in Yemen and Hedjaz, and is waiting for help.

It is said that the Vali of Hedjaz, Ahmed Ratib Pasha, is trying to utilize the influence of the Grand Sharif to bring Sheikh Ahmed-bin-Aiz to terms. The father of the present Grand Sharif, Mohammed-bin-Aun, had married the daughter of Mohammad-bin-Farih, brother of Sheikh Aiz, and the late Grand Sharif Abdulla, the brother of Sharif Aun-ur-Rafik, has married the daughter of Sheikh Aiz, and it is

[1535]

X

believed by his Excellency Ahmed Ratib Pasha that on account of these family relations the Grand Sharif will be able to exercise favourable influence to create better feeling between the Arabs of Assir and the Turks. But I believe the present Grand Sharif has no influence in Assir neither for good nor bad, and therefore the efforts of Ahmed Ratib Pasha will prove fruitless in the matter.

(Signed) S. MOHAMMAD HUSAIN.

Jeddah, June 9, 1905.

It is also reported that for a long time there has been no Mutessarif at Abha, and that a military officer has been acting as Mutessarif. I am unable to ascertain the number of Turkish troops that were in Assir and Abha, but it is believed that their number was very small.

S. M. H.

No. 83.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 415.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 14, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, copy of a despatch from Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to this Embassy, reporting on the progress of events in the Yemen and the proposed plan of campaign.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

Sir,

Therapia, June 13, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows on the present state of affairs in the Yemen and progress of events there.

After a prolonged discussion at the Palace, during which the inadvisability of sending his best troops to Yemen was represented to the Sultan, it has now been decided not to send the Angora and Kaisarie divisions for service there.

It was represented as endangering the military situation in Europe if so large a force as two divisions of the 1st Corps were withdrawn, and these counsels prevailed with His Majesty, so that now only the 16 battalions of the Kharpur and Malatia Redif Brigades are being mobilized and are on their way to Alexandretta, where the advance troops will soon arrive. But it will require at least another month or six weeks before this division can arrive complete at Hodeida.

Last week the final plans for the reconquest of the Yemen were sanctioned by the Sultan, and will be carried out when sufficient troops have been collected at Hodeida.

A plan was first drawn up in the War Office, then sent up to the Palace, where it was entirely altered by the special Commission under the presidency of Eumer Rushdi Pasha, which sits at Yildiz to advise the Sultan.

Many details were arranged personally by His Majesty, and finally General Romei Pasha, an Italian officer attached to the Sultan's staff, was called in to give his opinion.

The general plan consists of an advance into the country on two main lines based on Hodeida and Mokha respectively.

The force is to comprise eight columns, six in the first line and two in reserve, amounting altogether, it is hoped, to 80,000 men, but this total will probably not be reached.

Four columns are to follow the route from Hodeida to Sanaa through Menakha, and the four others are to move from Mokha by Taiz on Sanaa, rather the longer route of the two.

The formation is to be as follows:—

A central column leading along the main road with right and left flanking columns, following parallel mountain tracks on either hand.

In rear of the centre will follow the transport with stores and ammunition for all the three columns in front of it.

The rear will be brought up by the reserve column.

It was proposed to employ twelve maxim guns with the columns, but only four serviceable guns were found available.

This plan looks well on paper, but as many transport animals are still wanting, it will probably be impossible to actually carry it out. Ahmed Feizi Pasha, the new Commander-in-chief, has arrived at Hodeida and great things are expected of him, as he has some thirty years' experience in the country, knows all the leading men and the topography of the country.

The Isbarta and Rize Redif Brigades have arrived at Hodeida, but the want of transport animals for a movement inland is being found very serious and nothing can be done until sufficient are collected.

Of 2,000 animals ordered to be collected in Syria last April, only 300 have been shipped up to date, and there seems little likelihood of any more being found there.

The Arabs have removed inland any animals in the vicinity of Hodeida, and there is also great difficulty in collecting the necessary stores and provisions. Meanwhile the Mission under Shakir Pasha has been liberally provided with money, and is endeavouring to come to some temporary arrangement with the Imam until the troops are ready to advance.

However, the Imam appears to be consolidating his power, the important position of Ibb on the Taiz-Sanaa Road, with Kataba, having fallen into his hands. Also the movement is said to be gaining ground in Assir, and even among the leading Arab tribes east of Mecca.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Military Attaché.

No. 84.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office June 23, 1905.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the settlement of the Aden frontier question.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Mr. Brodrick concurs, to approve Sir N. O'Connor's proposal to arrange for an exchange of notes in the manner described in his despatch. It will be observed that his Excellency asks whether it will be sufficient to insert a paragraph in the note to the effect that the actual demarcation of the undelimited portion of the frontier from the River Bana north-eastwards to the desert is postponed to a more favourable moment.

Lord Lansdowne will be glad to be favoured with Mr. Brodrick's observations on this point.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 85.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 417.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 15, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 356 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeida, reporting upon the present state of the rebellion in the Yemen, and on the general condition of the province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

* No. 79.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Vice-Consul Richardson to Consul Devey.

(No. 61.)

Sir,

Hodeida, May 16, 1905.

THE steam-ship "Fuad," belonging to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, arrived here from Constantinople on the 12th instant, bringing General Shakir Pasha, Chief Commissioner of Reforms, and the other members of the Commission recently appointed to visit the Yemen.

Forty-five persons, previously banished from this province to Rhodes and the other Turkish islands, chiefly during the régime of Hilmi Pasha, returned by the above-mentioned vessel.

About a month ago, a notorious Arab Sheikh, Mahomed Dalal, a personal friend of the present Imam, who was exiled to Rhodes some ten years ago as an undesirable person in the Yemen, for incessantly inciting the Arabs to rise against the Turks, was permitted to return here.

It would appear that this man gave certain assurances to the Palace that he was in a position to effect an amicable settlement between the Ottoman Government and the Imam.

However, the local authorities are distrustful of the Sheikh, and are unwilling to allow him to visit the Imam.

I believe that the Adjoint Vali has advised Yildiz to send Mahomed Dalal back to Rhodes, on the ground that he is still a dangerous person if permitted to escape to the interior.

Sana'a has now been nearly vacated by the Turks, the delay being due to the limited transport available.

The Vali, Tewfik Bey, and the Commander-in-chief, Riza Pasha, reached Menakha about five or six days ago.

Numbers of officials and merchants from the surrendered capital are daily pouring into Hodeida.

With reference to the terms of the capitulation of Sana'a, I learn from a Turkish friend, who has recently arrived from the latter town, and in close relation with one of the Commissioners delegated to arrange the same with the Imam, that they include the following, besides surrender of the city with its fortifications, guns, and munitions, &c.:-

1. The permanent withdrawal of the Turks from Hajje (captured by the insurgents three months ago), and the fortified positions maintained north and south-east of Sana'a, now in the hands of the Arabs.

2. The surrender of Taweela, Hujjur, and it is even believed, of Menakha and Ta'iz also.

The first of the above places, whose brave garrison of eighty men under Colonel Ibrahim Bey had gallantly held out for the past six months, retired from their position after the fall of Sana'a.

The Turkish Commissioners signed the terms of capitulation with reference to the cession of Hujjur, Menakha, and Ta'iz conditionally that the Commandants of these respective places would accept the same; the Vali and the Commander-in-chief assuring the Imam that the three afore-mentioned fortified towns were outside the pale of their control in a matter like this. Hujjur is still holding out, and well provisioned and strongly defended; Ta'iz is in occupation of the Turkish forces; whereas Menakha, though understood to be invested from the north-west, has natural defences, and is garrisoned by Albanian troops and not likely to fall.

3. An armistice to be proclaimed for a period of one year, the Turks engaging to desist from hostilities.

As regards the above condition, it is a significant fact that the large reinforcements expected have ceased to arrive during the past ten days.

It is hardly necessary to observe, that should this really have been one of the terms of surrender, the Turkish Government is not at all likely to accept or abide by the pledged undertaking entered into by its Representatives.

The Imam has proposed to administer the whole of the mountainous districts of the Yemen where the Zaidi element predominates, and to pay in return to the Sultan an annual tribute, and to maintain at his expense a garrison of 5,000 Ottoman troops at Sana'a.

It is also suggested that the Palace receive a deputation for the purpose of pre-

senting the grievances of the Yemenites, and representing the misrule and tyranny of the Turkish administrative and military officials.

Reports reach me that there are already dissensions between the various Arab tribesmen on account of the generous terms accorded to the Turks. The bazaar recently established outside the walls of Sana'a by the Imam's Lieutenant was sacked a few days ago by certain of the discontented tribes.

The new Military Commander for the Yemen, Ahmed Fezi Pasha, has not yet arrived, though daily expected.

Abundant rains have fallen all over the province, and the price of food-stuffs at Sana'a has gone down considerably, and is lower than was the case in normal and even good years, under Ottoman occupation.

Hodeida has had an unprecedented big rainfall during the months of March and April, unknown for the past thirty years.

A Turkish medical officer, who was attached to the military hospital at Sana'a throughout the six months' siege, estimates the mortality from starvation and disease alone among the garrison, at between 6,000 and 7,000. He further states that the Turkish corpses strewn along the route between Sana'a and Menakha should exceed 1,000.

There is no reliable information regarding the progress of events in the vicinity of Ta'iz, but the rumour current here for some time past that Riza Pasha and the Mutessarif of the Sandjak, with 1,000 men are besieged at Ibb, daily gains ground.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON.

No. 86.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 430.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 20, 1905.

I UNDERSTAND that the news received by the Turkish Government during the last few days represents the insurrection in the province of Arsir, where the Sheikh Ali-bin-Ayiz is reported to be inciting the tribes to revolt and to be blockading Ebha, the capital of the Sanjak, as having again assumed alarming proportions.

Energetic military measures have been decided on, and the 19th (Kharput) Nizam Division of the Fourth Army Corps is to be sent to Confidah, eight battalions being ordered to march at once to Alexandretta for embarkation. The strength of these battalions, moreover, is to be raised to 1,000 men each, by calling out the men of the active reserve (Ikhtiat) to rejoin the colours.

It has been decided also to try the experiment of sending a regiment of irregular Hamidieh cavalry to the Yemen, and the 40th Regiment, furnished by the section of the Kara Papakh tribe inhabiting the Vilayet of Sivas, has been selected for the purpose, probably as being more amenable to orders than any of the regiments of Kurdistan proper. On the other hand, the dispatch of the Erzeroum, Erzinghian, Diarbekir, and Kharput Redifs, previously decided on by the Military Commission, has been countermanded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 87.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated 26th June, relative to the proposed establishment of a Koweit post on Bubiyan Island.

India Office, June 27, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P.

June 26, 1905.

KOWEIT: Your telegram of the 31st ultimo.

We have received and forwarded to you a Report by Cox about Bubiyan Island. Report will reach India Office on the 7th July. Idea of establishing a post on Bubiyan is welcomed by Shiekh of Koweit, (1) provided that full moral support is given to him by the British Government and that the latter intimate to the Turkish Government their recognition of his claims to the island, and support him in instituting the post; (2) as regards material support, Sheikh makes the following stipulations:—

(a.) That British Political Agent shall be maintained at Koweit as a practically permanent arrangement.

(b.) That a man-of-war shall visit Koweit and the Khor Abdullah occasionally.

(c.) That British Government shall contribute 100 rupees a month for maintenance of guard, besides a sum of 500 rupees for erection of the necessary quarters. Expenditure under this head would be less than the amount of subsidy sanctioned in the telegram from the Secretary of State, dated the 17th January, 1899.

The above terms are, in our opinion, fair, and we recommend that they be accepted in their entirety.

It has been suggested by Sheikh that more than one post should be established, and before the question of the number of posts, and their location, is settled it would be well to sanction visit to Khor Abdullah by Political Resident.

(Repeated to Political Resident, Persian Gulf.)

No. 88.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Mounsey.

(No. 60.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 30, 1905.

YOU are aware that an Arbitral Tribunal is to meet at The Hague on the 25th July next, for the purpose of deciding the questions which have been referred to it, under the Agreement between Great Britain and France, signed in London on the 13th October, 1904, respecting the right of certain Muscat dhows to fly the French flag, &c.

His Majesty's Government have selected Mr. Ronald Graham, First Secretary in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service, to be British Agent, under Article III of the above Agreement.

I have to inform you that you are appointed Secretary to assist the British Agent on this occasion, and that Mr. W. F. Craies, whose services have been retained for the preparation of the British Case, Counter-Case, and Argument, will accompany the Agent to The Hague in the capacity of Counsel.

I request that you will make the necessary communication to the Secretary-General of the International Bureau.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 89.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Ronald Graham.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 30, 1905.

YOU are aware that an Arbitral Tribunal is to meet at The Hague on the 25th July next for the purpose of deciding the questions which have been referred to it under the Agreement between Great Britain and France, signed in London on the 13th October, 1904, respecting the right of certain Muscat dhows to fly the French flag, &c.

I have to inform you that His Majesty's Government have selected you to be the British Agent under Article III of the above Agreement.

You are hereby authorized to act in that capacity.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.